Daily Report

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CONTENTS

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League, PLO Denounce Higgins' Execution *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 1
Jordan, Egypt Condemn Killing *[KUNA]* 1
Kuwait's Sabah on Failure of Lebanon Committee *[KUNA]* 1

Palestinian Affairs

Higgins' Killing, Waite Deadline Reported *[Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio]* 1
Intifadah Call Urges Burning of Israeli Property *[Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio]* 2
Habash Interview on Fatah Relations, Shamir Plan *[Kuwait AL-ANBA' 30 Jul]* 3
U.S. 'Sources' Cited on 'Arafat's Entry Visa *[Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM 31 Jul]* 5

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Foreign Ministry Issues Statement on 'Ubayd *[Algiers Radio]* 6
Foreign Minister Meets Mubarak at OAU Summit *[Algiers Radio]* 6
Gubernatorial Transfers, Appointments Announced *[Algiers TV]* 6

Egypt

Butrus Ghali Condemns Killing of Higgins *[Cairo Radio]* 7
Commentary on Higgins Killing, Israeli Actions *[Cairo Radio]* 7
AL-AHRAM on 'Secret' PLO-Israeli Dialogue *[MENA]* 7
Ghali Urges Lebanon Committee To Continue Efforts *[Cairo Radio]* 8
Security Services Arrest Al-Jihad Group Leader *[Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD 31 Jul]* 8
Further on Case of 3 Jihad Suspects *[ROSE AL-YUSUF 31 Jul]* 8

Libya

Involvement in 1987 Ship Hijacking Denied *[JANA]* 8
SDAR's Abdelaziz, Al-Qadhdhafi on OAU Summit *[Algiers Radio]* 9
SFRY Foreign Minister Loncar Visits 9
Arrives With Delegation *[JANA]* 9
Meets With Al-Qadhdhafi *[JANA]* 9
Praises Relations, Departs *[JANA]* 9

Sudan

Al-Bashir To Hold Talks With Al-Qadhdhafi *[SUNA]* 9
Libyan Media Interview Lt Gen Al-Bashir *[JANA]* 9
Al-Bashir on Possible Union With Egypt, Libya *[VOL]* 10
Al-Bashir on Arab Relations, African Cause *[Omdurman Radio]* 10
Al-Zubayr Ends Gulf Tour; Promises 'Results' *[Omdurman Radio]* 10

Air Force Helicopter Crashes; 16 Killed *[SUNA]* 11
SPLM Promises Safe Passage for Relief Train *[Radio SPLA]* 11
SPLA Chief Garang's 1 Aug Speech Postponed *[Radio SPLA]* 11

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Kuwait

Daily Warns of Any U.S. 'Military Adventure' *[KUNA]* 12

Saudi Arabia

Source Denounces 'Ubayd Abduction, Higgins Death *[SPA]* 12
Statement on PDRY Official's Visit Issued *[SPA]* 12

IRAQ

President's Envoy to King Husayn Departs Baghdad *[Baghdad Radio]* 13
Daily Urges Support for Tripartite Committee *[INA]* 13
AL-JUMHURIYAH on Aims of Iran 'Alliance' *[INA]* 13

ISRAEL

Knesset Rejects 3 No-Confidence Motions *[Jerusalem Radio]* 14
Rabin Addresses Knesset on 'Ubayd, Hostages *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 14
Inner Cabinet Briefed; Kelly, UN's Goulding Due *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 16
UN Chief, Matnay Meeting Sparks Rumors of Deal *[THE JERUSALEM POST 2 Aug]* 16
More Steps To Free POW's Will Be Taken If Needed *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 17
Netanyahu Sees 'Chance' for Hostage Release *[Jerusalem Radio]* 17
Higgins Died From Torture '7 Months Ago' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 18
Jordanian Paper Claims Israel To Attack Lebanon *[Amman AKHBAR AL-USBU' 2 Aug]* 18
'Sources' Note 'Direct' U.S. Pressure on Syria *[THE JERUSALEM POST 2 Aug]* 18
Ministry Calls For Unity in Combating Terrorism *[GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE]* 19
Arens Answers Questions on Higgins, Other Issues *[Jerusalem International]* 19
Official Comments on Hostage Exchange Plan *[Paris Radio]* 25

JORDAN

'Official Spokesman' Condemns Higgins' Execution *[PETRA-JNA]* 27
U.S. Blamed for Abduction, Hostage Killing *[AKHBAR AL-USBU' 2 Aug]* 27
King Husayn Returns From Jeddah, Cables Thanks *[Amman TV]* 27
Al-Masri To Lead Delegation to USSR 'Shortly' 28
Military Debts To Be Discussed *[Paris AL-MUHARRIR 29 Jul]* 28
Trade, Cooperation on Agenda *[SAWT AL-SHA'B 11 Aug]* 28
Crown Prince on Future Talks on Territories *[Jerusalem International]* 28
Egyptian, YAR Foreign Ministers Depart 21 Jul *[Amman Radio]* 29
Spokesman Condemns Raid on YAR Airline Office *[Amman Radio]* 29
Cabinet Approves Agreements With Syria *[JORDAN TIMES 30 Jul]* 29
King Speaks on Economy, Elections, Arab Issues *[Amman TV]* 29

LEBANON

Hizballah: Response to Military Action 'Severe' *[VOM]* 35
Further Report on Postponement of Executions *[VOL]* 35
Group Denies Issuing Statement on Hostage Waite *[RFL]* 35
Further on Denial *[Voice of National Resistance]* 35
Religious Source Says Higgins Died 5 Months Ago *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 2 Aug]* 35
Pope Agrees To Mediate in Retrieving Higgins' Body *[AFP]* 35
Rumors on Prisoner Exchange Reported *[RFL]* 36
Hizballah Source Ridicules Rabin's Swap Offer *[VOM]* 36

Birri, Junblatt Comment on Higgins' Execution *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 36
Junblatt Condemns Killing *[VOM]* 36
Political Commentary Warns of Further Events *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 37
Ambassador Praises Egypt's Position on 'Ubayd *[MENA]* 37
Jubayl, Kasrawan Coasts Under Syrian Fire *[VOL]* 38
Army, Syrians Violently Clash in Beirut Areas *[RFL]* 38
New Iranian Group Reportedly Enters Country *[INA]* 38
Envoy Says 'Modern' Weapons Received From Iraq *[RFL]* 38
News Agency Prosecuted for Statements on Weapons *[VOL]* 38
Hizballah Radio on Resistance Operations in South *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 38

SYRIA

Reaction to Abduction, Execution Cited *[Damascus Radio]* 39
Further on Reactions *[Damascus Radio]* 39
TISHRIN Cited on Abduction *[Damascus Radio]* 39
AL-ITTIHAD on M-9 Missile Deal With China *[Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD 31 Jul]* 39
Al-Asad Pays Tribute to Army on 44th Anniversary *[Damascus Radio]* 40

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Islamabad Radio: Night Curfew Imposed in Kabul 41
Rockets Seized in Kabul Police 'Sweep' *[AFP]* 41
BAKHTAR Reports Military Situation 41
Round-up of Military Situation 30 Jul *[Kabul Radio]* 41
Party Official Emphasizes Regime's Strength *[Vienna Radio]* 42
Views Talks With Opposition *[Vienna DER STANDARD 1 Aug]* 43
Rebel Interim Govenment To Launch 'News Agency' *[AFP]* 43
Foreign Minister Wakil Returns From Ethiopia *[BAKHTAR]* 43

India

High-Level Talks Continue With Sri Lanka 1 Aug *[Delhi Radio]* 43
Talks, Situation Updated *[ISI]* 44
Impasse in Talks Reported 2 August *[BBC]* 44
Embassy in Kathmandu Under 'Strict Surveillance' *[Delhi Radio]* 45
Daily Welcomes Outcome of Gandhi's Pakistan Visit *[THE HINDUSTAN TIMES 19 Jul]* 45
Gandhi Sends Message to Africa Fund Meeting *[Delhi Radio]* 45
Daily Views Soviet Proposal on Rupee-Ruble Trade *[PATRIOT 20 Jul]* 46
Concern Expressed on Situation in Kashmir *[PATRIOT 19 Jul]* 46

Iran

Higgins Execution Said 'Natural Retaliation' *[IRNA]* 46
Majlis Committee Condemns 'Ubayd Abduction *[IRNA]* 47
USSR's Shevardnadze Opens Talks With Velayati *[IRNA]* 47
Meets Hashemi-Rafsanjani *[IRNA]* 47
Holds Talks With Musavi *[IRNA]* 48
Departs Tehran With Delegation *[IRNA]* 48
Shevardnadze, Velayati Comment *[Tehran Radio]* 48
Daily Sees 'Hope' in Shevardnadze Visit *[IRNA]* 49
IRNA Pleads Case of Iranian Hostages 49
Hashemi-Rafsanjani Investiture Set for 3 Aug *[IRNA]* 50
Second Part of Hashemi-Rafsanjani Interview *[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI 17 Jul]* 50
Majlis Deputy Discloses Boycott of IPU Meeting *[IRNA]* 55
Papers Say U.S. To Blame for Beijing Deaths *[IRNA]* 56
Habibi: U.S. Should Pay Damages for Airbus *[IRNA]* 56

Paper Comments on 'U.S. Desire' To Normalize Ties *[KEYHAN 19 Jul]* 57
Khamene'i Thanks People for Election Turnout *[IRNA]* 57
Chief Justice Congratulates Hashemi-Rafsanjani *[Tehran Radio]* 58
Memorial Service for Murdered Mujahidin Planned *[IRNA]* 58
Diplomat Interviewed on Qasemlu Killing *[Tehran Radio]* 58
KEYHAN Views Relations With Kuwait *[4 Jul]* 59

Sri Lanka

2 Tamil Parties Demand Inclusion in Indian Talks *[AFP]* 60

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League, PLO Denounce Higgins' Execution

JN0108180089 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1710 GMT 1 Aug 89

[Text] The Arab League has denounced the execution of Colonel Higgins and urged the international community to denounce the state terrorism practiced by Israel. The Arab League voiced the view that violence and counter-violence are certainly not the best means of establishing peace and security in the Middle East.

Egypt, Syria, and Jordan have condemned the killing of the U.S. officer and the abduction of the Hizballah official.

The PLO, which denounced Higgins' execution, held the Israeli Government responsible for what has happened, given the fact that Israel is practicing state terrorism. 'Arafat's adviser Bassam Abu-Sharif said: The U.S. President (?should) seriously examine Israel's operations of terror.

Jordan, Egypt Condemn Killing

LD0108213189 Kuwait KUNA in English 1941 GMT 1 Aug 89

[Text] Tunis, Aug 1 (KUNA)—The Arab League had condemned the killing of U.S. hostage Col. William Higgins in Lebanon Monday by a pro-Iranian group known as the Oppressed on Earth.

A spokesman for the League Tuesday appealed to the international community to confront the causes which lead to such acts including the Israeli organized piracy. The spokesman reiterated the Arab countries' unswerving stand against all forms of terrorism.

In Jordan, the official news agency (PETRA) quoted a government spokesman as saying the execution of the hostage was "regrettable, merciless, unfair and unjustifiable."

The spokesman condemned all forms of violence and abduction particularly Israeli terrorist operations in South Lebanon. He said such acts would only lead to more violence, saying it was part of endeavours aimed at deflecting attention from the situation in the occupied Arab territories.

Egyptian State Minister for Foreign Affairs Butrus Ghali expressed his country's denunciation and regret at the killing of Higgins. "But this condemnation does not lessen the gravity of the terrorist act committed in Israel which Egypt had earlier warned that it will open the door for a series of violence that will blow up peace process in the region" Ghali was quoted by Radio Cairo as saying.

Kuwait's Sabah on Failure of Lebanon Committee

LD0108134189 Kuwait KUNA in English 1238 GMT 1 Aug 89

[Text] Kuwait, Aug 1 (KUNA)—Acting Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah Al-Ahmad Tuesday expressed sorrow and anguish over an announcement by foreign ministers of the Arab Tripartite Committee that they have reached a deadend in their efforts to resolve the Lebanese crisis.

In a statement to KUNA Shaykh Sabah blamed the committee's failure on "non-cooperation of the Lebanese groupings with efforts of the Arab Tripartite Committee."

Shaykh Sabah warned the Lebanese factions to seize "this opportunity that would not avail itself again, under the chairmanship of custodian of the two holy mosques Saudi King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-Aziz, Moroccan monarch Hassan II and Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid."

The top Kuwaiti official said "we have been much distressed by the three Arab foreign ministers' announcement because Lebanon, as it stands, needs Arab assistance to steer it out of the political and security turmoil."

In conclusion, Shaykh Sabah urged all Lebanese to cooperate with the Arab Tripartite Committee that seeks to haul Lebanon out of 14 years of civil war.

Palestinian Affairs

Higgins' Killing, Waite Deadline Reported

JN0108202089 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 1 Aug 89

[Excerpts] The Organization of the Oppressed on Earth has threatened that it will execute British hostage Terry Waite, Anglican Church envoy, at midnight if the Zionist entity does not release Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd and his aides who were kidnapped by the Zionist troops in their village Jibshit in an act of piracy last week.

The spokesman for the Organization of the Oppressed on Earth said in a telephone call: We will execute British hostage Terry Waite if the Zionist entity does not release Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd and his aides before 2400 hours tonight.

The spokesman for the organization which said that it executed Colonel William Higgins added that his organization will strike at U.S. and Zionist interests throughout the world if Shaykh 'Ubayd is not released.

The Revolutionary Justice Organization—the Lebanese resistance—has announced its determination to execute U.S.-Zionist spy Joseph Ciccipio if Shaykh 'Ubayd is not released before 1800 hours today, Tuesday. [passage omitted]

It is worth recalling that the abduction of Shaykh 'Ubayd by the Zionist entity is viewed by many observers as a prelude to a large-scale aggression on Lebanon, as the United States and the enemy are aware that the resistance will not remain silent and that it will carry out its threat as regards the killing of hostages.

The observers voiced their concern over the successive developments which have begun to surface with the execution of Higgins, the reports on the Zionist troop concentrations in southern Lebanon, and also the call made by Bush for a meeting of the National Security Council. They believe all these things confirm that the Zionist entity has deliberately chosen to ignite the first spark. Observers here cast doubt on the lack of prior knowledge by the United States of the operation involving the abduction of Shaykh 'Ubayd. They link the excuses advanced by the Zionist entity in 1982 before the invasion on the one hand and between the abduction of the shaykh and successive developments. The snowball is getting bigger, as the Al-Quds radio editor remarked.

What is exciting about the issue is the justification advanced by the Zionist entity for its terrorist act.

In reply to a question addressed by the French television to the Zionist entity's ambassador in Paris which goes as follows: How did the Zionist entity, which claims to be democratic resort to the pursuit of a terrorist act, such as the operation involving the abduction of Shaykh 'Ubayd? 'Ovadya Sofer answered by saying that his entity is in the heat of a battle and added that battle dictates the implementation of some unethical acts. He ruled out the possibility that the abduction of Shaykh 'Ubayd accelerated the execution of Col Higgins. [passage omitted]

With the continuation of the series of condemnations of the abduction of Shaykh 'Ubayd, the picture shows right now that the nationalist Lebanese resistance organizations are proceeding toward the bitter end, they will not fear the aggression of the Zionist entity, and they are ready to carry out their threats. The ball right now is in the court of the Zionist entity and that of its strategic ally, the United States. Will Shaykh 'Ubayd be released with the result of seeing an end to the killing of hostages? Or will the enemy remain intransigent? In this case, the enemy will pay a heavy price, as the spokesman for the Organization of the Oppressed on Earth has said.

Intifadah Call Urges Burning of Israeli Property

JN0108193089 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1650 GMT 1 Aug 89

[Unscheduled call]

[Text] Beloved brothers: Have you forgotten how we transformed the settler's plantations into ashes last year? Have you forgotten the fires all over Palestine? Now is the time. The summer plantations are waiting for our heroes to advance on them and turn them into ashes, into dust.

Brother Palestinian hero: One matchstick is enough to set on fire a field of wheat or barley.

Brother Palestinian hero: You can soak a piece of cloth in kerosene, gasoline, or alcohol, set it ablaze, and hurl it in the middle of the field. Then you can run away from the field and the fire area.

Brother Palestinian hero: You can cast the soaked, burning cloth from a distance, using your sling. Thus, you will ensure that it reaches the middle of the field while you are away from the burning area.

Brother Palestinian hero: If you have a car, you can throw a burning cigarette or the burning kerosene- or gasoline-soaked rag from the window of your car. Then you can proceed on your way quietly and without unnecessary speed that might draw attention to you or cause you undesired harm.

Brother Palestinian hero: Make the life of the Zionists hell, an all-consuming fire.

Brother Palestinian hero: They are preparing a new phase of repression against the intifadah [uprising], using harsher methods. O let their attention be drawn away from this phase by fires, by fields that are consumed by the burning flames of our heroes.

Brother Palestinian hero: Let them lose plantations that they had robbed from our land's produce. You are aware of the mentality of the Zionist: His property is dearer to him than his honor. Burn this property now in the season of fires and flames.

Brother Palestinian hero: Make their lives hell. Make it now as you did last year. Burn everything that burns—the field, the storehouses, the vehicles, and the gasoline stations belonging to Zionists. Give them fire that transforms them into ashes, into dust. Let Palestine burn under the feet of the Zionist invaders everywhere in Palestine.

Brother Palestinian hero in Haifa as well as the West Bank and Gaza; in Ramlah, in the Triangle, in Nazareth: You are asked to burn in Tel Aviv, Nahariya, and in all areas of Palestine.

Brother Palestinian hero: Fires do not require sophisticated tools. Fires are the most primitive weapon but they only need enough determination and courage. You have this determination, this courage.

Brother Palestinian hero Be certain that all of your people are awaiting the implementation of the above. We await your daring. Let all of Palestine burn with fire that consumes the Zionists' property and economy. Let the whole of Palestine burn and singe the bodies of the occupiers.

God is with us, victory is close, and together on the path of liberating the land and man.

Habash Interview on Fatah Relations, Shamir Plan
JN3107153189 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic
30 Jul p 23

[Interview with George Habash, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], by Fathi al-Barqawi in Tunis—date not given]

[Text] [Al-Barqawi] What were the subjects that came up in the meetings between the PFLP and Fatah?

[Habash] We in the PFLP feel that over the past few months Israeli and American policies on the intifadah [uprising] have now been defined and established.

Israeli policies stepped up repression to quell the intifadah. In the meantime, Shamir's plan to find a substitue for the PLO and abort the intifadah has also been established.

We now also feel that the trend of American policies is to reject the Palestinian state. In light of this, we think the time is right for an exchange of views with our brothers in Fatah. We have tried to answer the following question: What are we to do, given these established facts?

On our side in the PFLP, we have argued that we must move forcefully to radicalize the intifadah and think out every means of escalation to inflict economic and human "military" losses now that it is clear our Zionist enemy understands only the language of force and as it has become clear that only after the institution of a major shift in the balance of forces on the ground can a Palestinian state become a feasible proposition. Only then will the enemy be forced to recognize the PLO and our rights.

Furthermore, we have discovered in the meantime that there is only one route to effecting a change in the American position and that is for us to put the American Administration on notice that we will not be tricked by its maneuvers, and that short of Washington meeting not only our political rights but also our national rights, its regional interests will be on the line.

We have asserted to our brothers in Fatah that we stand by our program of return, statehood, self-determination, and the international conference. We also emphasized that we extend our hands to Fatah to build the stongest of ties. In other words, the political moves since the last Palestine National Council's session dictate that the Palestinian leadership take a fresh, sober look to make sure that the intifadah carries on until independence and freedom are gained.

[Al-Barqawi] Did other points come up at the meetings?

[Habash] Naturally, these were not the only subjects discussed. We discussed our activities abroad and agreed on the need to mobilize all our resources and the masses in exile to ensure financial, political, moral, and informational support for the intifadah. We also touched on democratic reforms in the PLO's institutions as effective measures within the PLO. Another subject was the Arab state of affairs and our role on that front as well as the PLO role in energizing the Arab masses to pressure Arab governments to fulfill their duties to the Palestinian cause.

Arab countries in the past have fought battles on behalf of the Palestinian cause. In 1973, there was battle with oil for the Palestinians. If the Arab countries are now unable to stand by the intifadah or wage another battle with oil, they can, at any rate, tell the United States that it cannot continue to use its veto, which it has already exercised five times against the intifadah. These countries can, at least, threaten a severance of ties. They have to tell the Americans unambiguously that our relations with Washington will be subject to their respect for the Palestinian people's rights and recognition of the Palestinian state.

Our talks further took up what we should do to promote the idea of the international conference and to garner the greatest possible support for the intifadah. We looked into the best approach to persuading world opinion to apply every kind of pressure on the Zionist entity to recognize Palestinian rights.

The intifadah has raised the banner of freedom and made the Palestinian state a feasible proposition. This goal, however, will not come about unless a fresh balance of forces comes into being on the local, Arab, and international levels.

[Al-Barqawi] Was there harmony between the PFLP and Fatah over all the issues raised?

[Habash] Naturally, it is not easy to say that the views were fully identical. However, there were more points of agreement than of difference. We in the PFLP sincerely wish Fatah success in its fifth national congress, which they are preparing for, so that we can follow up all the issues until the establishment of the Palestinian state.

The Palestinian position is represented by rejection of the Shamir plan in principle. Through this plan, the U.S. Administration, which is the owner of the elections plan in the occupied West Bank and Gaza, aims to erode the subject of an international conference so that it can continue to hold all the strings. Therefore, the idea of elections must be rejected in principle.

If we ask ourselves what are the objectives of Shamir's plan, then—and without going into too much detail which might distort the picture—we will find that the plan aims to lift the state of international isolation imposed on the Zionist entity, abort the intifadah and

extinguish it gradually, and create a local Palestinian leadership which constitutes an alternative to the PLO. The plan also aims to achieve the same U.S. objective: to erode, and then cancel altogether the idea of the international conference as the mechanism to achieve the goals of repatriation, self-determination, and the Palestinian state.

I personally believe that the Palestinian position is to reject Shamir's plan in principle. There can be no democracy under occupation. If there are people who are sincere about achieving democracy, they must also be sincere about achieving freedom, which must come before democracy. This means evacuating the Israeli occupation troops prior to holding elections. By Israeli evacuation, I do not only mean keeping the Israeli army away from the main cities alone, but to withdraw the Israeli army from all areas occupied in 1967 and to provide international protection. Following that, we are ready to give our Palestinian masses their full right to hold elections. Anything else is laughable.

[Al-Barqawi] What is your position on what is being said about conditions set by the PLO to accept the elections plan?

[Habash] I know the Palestinian paper that was submitted to the extraordinary Arab summit conference in Casablanca. I know the resolution adopted by the summit and I know the Palestinian resolutions adopted by the PLO. In light of this I give you my answer.

I do not care about the statements made by Hasan 'Abd-al-Rahman [director of Washington's Palestine Information Office] in Washington or about the statements made here or there by this or that person. What I care about are the resolutions adopted by the PLO in this regard. The paper submitted by the PLO to the Arab summit and the resolution adopted on Shamir plan are what we should go by as they are much more important than a statement made by this or that person.

[Al-Barqawi] Has the PLO given the green light to figures inside [the occupied territories] to contact Israeli officials?

[Habash] The PLO has not given the green light to any one. It said the following: If the Israeli occupation troops force anyone to meet with Yitzhaq Shamir, Shim'on Peres, or Yitzhaq Rabin, and if that person has no option but to answer that request, then, in such a case, the answer must be that the PLO is the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative and its address is known to everyone.

[Al-Barqawi] What about the contacts said to be going on between PLO and Israeli officials?

[Habash] In the view of the PFLP, the charter means abiding by the resolutions of the Palestine National Council [PNC]. What do these resolutions say in this respect? And, more specifically, what do the resolutions of the 19th session of the PNC say?

The PNC positions on this matter have developed. The latest PNC session said contacts are permissible—the PFLP expressed reservations on this resolution. However, the resolution allows contacts with the Jewish forces that support our national rights. It by no means approves meetings with Israeli delegations that do not support our rights. We determine our position on these meetings in light of this fact.

[Al-Barqawi] Palestinian-U.S. contacts are moving in a vicious circle. How do you assess their outcome?

[Habash] We in the PFLP welcomed these contacts and considered them one of the important achievements of the intifadah. Our analysis was that the intifadah, above anything else, forced the U.S. Administration to hold contacts with the PLO.

The U.S. Administration at this point in the dialogue is trying to distract us from our national goals and the common Palestinian ground on which our national unity was established. This explains why the contacts are running into trouble.

I do not think it is wise for the Palestinian side to break off the contacts. But we should neither be deceived by the U.S. maneuvers nor deviate from the goals of the national common ground. By continuing, entrenching, expanding, and escalating the intifadah, and by letting it take its external Palestinian and Arab dimensions, we will force the U.S. Administration to acknowledge our rights as we forced it—and I swear by God that I see this as clear as the sun—to begin the dialogue or the negotiations, because it could not stand alone. We will force it to forget the idea of elections and the Shamir plan and begin serious consideration of the international conference.

[Al-Barqawi] We only have time for one question concerning the normalization of Palestinian-Syrian relations. Despite Algerian efforts exerted over the past month, these relations saw no progress after the Harare and Casablanca meetings.

[Habash] I think the Palestinian side should keep taking the initiative until a serious dialogue aimed at normalizing and rectifying relations with Syria, or at least the process of determining the party responsible for the sluggishness and delay, begins.

Anyway, my latest information is that the Algerian brothers will again return to this subject and pursue it strongly after the fifth Fatah congress, which will be held soon, has ended.

U.S. 'Sources' Cited on 'Arafat's Entry Visa

JN0108192489 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 31 Jul 89 pp 1, 23

[Text] Washington—Paris—AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM—Responsible sources in the State Department affirmed to AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM that the U.S. Administration has decided to grant Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat an entry visa to the United States to deliver a speech before the UN General Assembly at the opening of its new annual session in September. These sources said that this step by the Bush administration is considered an initiative to push and encourage the peace process in the region.

The sources did not rule out that the United States will elevate the level of its present dialogue with the PLO to encourage it to continue its policy of moderation.

On the other hand, responsible French sources revealed to AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat, head of the PLO, might visit Paris a second time in response to an official invitation from the French Government. The sources clarified that the PLO Paris Representative Ibrahim al-Sus is currently holding intense contacts with the French Government to make 'Arafat's second visit to France materialize soon. The sources said that the French President Francois Mitterrand agreed to inviting 'Arafat to visit France and meet with him at the Elysee Palace. However, the date to invite 'Arafat has not been set yet. The sources clarified that Israel started to exert great diplomatic efforts to prevent the state of Palestine from joining the International Organization of Tourism, which will hold its next conference at the end of August in Paris. The PLO submitted a request to the institutions of the organization on this issue.

Algeria

Foreign Ministry Issues Statement on 'Ubayd

LD0108201989 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1800 GMT 1 Aug 89

[Text] The kidnapping of Shaykh 'Abd al-Karim 'Ubayd and the tragic consequences of this kidnapping are the subject of a statement by the the Foreign Ministry spokesman.

The kidnapping of Shaykh 'Abd al-Karim 'Ubayd and his companions on Lebanese territory constituted an unjustified act of international terrorism as well as a blatant violation of Lebanese territorial sovereignty. Algeria condemns with utmost vigor this odious action deliberately carried out within the emotional context prevailing in Lebanon which was likely to engender a cycle of violence. The tragic consequences of this new Zionist aggression against Lebanon leads to the complexity and the sensitivity of the situation of this sister country which is still dramatically afflicted, and beyond that to the whole area.

Algeria condemns terrorism whether is it carried out by individuals, groups, or states. In conformity with its position adopted in this subject, it profoundly regrets the execution of Lieutenant Colonel William Richard Higgins and expresses its condolences to the family of the deceased, the U.S. Government, and the United Nations. Algeria thinks that it is vital that reason and a sense of responsibility end the cycle of violence. It also thinks it is imperative that goodwill should prevent a further escalation [of violence] and more complications in the area and deploy every effort to truly find a just, lasting, and comprehensive solution to the Middle East crisis.

Foreign Minister Meets Mubarak at OAU Summit

LD2407134189 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 24 Jul 89

[Text] Foreign Minister Boualem Bessaieh, who is leading the Algerian delegation at these proceedings [the OAU 25th summit in Addis Ababa] held many talks this morning. The first of these brought him together with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, who is to be appointed to chair the organization. After this meeting, his excellency the minister gave us the following statement:

[Begin recording] [Correspondent] Your Excellency, you were received a short time ago by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak. What was the content of your talks with him?

[Bessaieh] I mentioned a short time ago that I met His Excellency President Husni Mubarak and that I conveyed to him a message from His Excellency President Chadli Bendjedid. This message contains several points particularly those included in the agenda of this African session. There was agreement and indentity of viewpoints between President Chadli and President Husni Mubarak on all the matters put forward. Naturally, we talked on this occasion about relations with Sudan which are, thanks to God, good. [end recording]

Gubernatorial Transfers, Appointments Announced

LD2707082989 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 26 Jul 89

[Excerpt] The Council of Ministers has examined a briefing by the minister of interior and environment, following which the president of the Republic began the operation of transferring and appointing governors as follows:

Habchi Lahbib transferred to Khanchela Province.

Hamrouche Mohamed Seghir transferred to the Batna Province.

Oussedik Mohamed Ouahcen transferred to Ghilizane Province.

Taboune Abdelmajid transferred to Tizi Ouzou Province.

Meziane Cherif Abderrahmane transferred to Ain Defla Province.

Bendjedid Khalifa transferred to Ain Timouchent Province.

Ibrahimi Salah transferred to Souk Ahras Province.

Bensnane Mohamed transferred to Oum Labouaghi Province.

Sakrane Tahar transferred to Tissimsalt Province.

Bessaieh Abdellatif transferred to Jijel Province.

Hamimed Mohmed Nadir transferred to Mostaganem Province.

Mrah Mohamed transferred to Guelma Province.

Ben Ayada Abdelkader transferred to Laghouat Province.

Si Yousef Mahmoud transferred to Guardaya Province.

Henni Mohamed transferred to Mila Province.

Saad Ali transferred to Constantine Province.

Hakimi Ahmed transferred to El Djelfa Province.

Ben Chaabane Amor Jamal transferred to Biskra Province.

Mammeri Mohamed Tahar transferred to Mascara Province.

Boubertakh Rabah transferred to Tiaret Province.

The names of new governors are as follows:

Jebbari Mohamed Cherif appointed governor of Adrar; Zoulim Mohamed governor of Bechar; Ben Mansour Mutapha governor of El Baidh; Hamidi Othmane governor of Ilizi; Mouatali Abdelkarim governor of El Ouadi; and Jeffal Brahim Governor of Naama. [passage omitted]

Egypt

Butrus Ghali Condemns Killing of Higgins

NC0108130289 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 1 Aug 89

[Text] Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, has stated that Egypt regrets and denounces the killing of U.S. Colonel William Higgins, head of a UN observers group attached to the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization UNTSO in southern Lebanon. He said this denunciation does not belittle the terrorist act Israel committed that Egypt had already warned would open the door to a series of acts of violence besetting peace in the region. He said that responding to the peace efforts, settling the Lebanese issue, and recognizing the Palestinian people's right to self-determination are the only avenues to eliminating the roots of violence, terrorism, and instability in the region.

Commentary on Higgins Killing, Israeli Actions

NC0108204889 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1745 GMT 1 Aug 89

[From the "Talking Newspaper" program: untitled commentary by Bahiy-al-Din Shu'ayb]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The execution of American Colonel William Higgins, head of a UN observers group attached to the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization in southern Lebanon, who was kidnapped in 1988, in retaliation for Israel's abduction of Shiite leader 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd, is morally and politically unacceptable. This execution constitutes an ugly crime which cannot be condoned by any civilized man. Condemning this act is axiomatic.

However, if we cast a more comprehensive look at this incident, we will see that the act that led to the killing of an innocent man constitutes the peak of terrorist escalation in the area. The victim was kidnapped in 1988 in reprisal for Israel's aggressive, brutal, and suppressive actions against the Lebanese people. The purpose was to make Washington take positive action to deter Israel and make it withdraw from Lebanon. The killing of this victim then came in retaliation for Israel's official operation in which a mini-cabinet, the chief of staff, and intelligence took part in kidnapping a Lebanese Shiite leader. The Israelis bragged about their action and the Israeli chief of staff offered official congratulations to those who took part in the kidnapping operation. A counteraction came when the Organization of the Oppressed on Earth issued a warning to both Israel and the United States stating that Shaykh 'Ubayd must be released or the group would kill U.S. hostage Col Higgins. When the deadline expired, the group issued a statement announcing that it had carried out its threat and hanged the American hostage. The man was wronged from beginning to end without having done anything wrong himself.

The whole world may certainly explode with anger at the execution of the American victim. Certain measures that no one knows of may be taken and a state of emergency may be declared in this or that military base. Several measures may be taken to affirm to everyone that the blood of the victim will not go unavenged. Despite this, the problem will remain the same. Israel will continue to occupy part of Lebanon's territory and raid the homes of innocent people in broad daylight, abduct, kill, and frighten people without the international community taking any steps to put an end to the aggression against a state that is undergoing a terrible ordeal—Lebanon.

Any country can avenge its victims and the punishment may be severe, but no one, however powerful, is capable of stopping a desperate man or preventing him from carrying out what he believes is the legitimate defense of his life, security, and his country's independence. Unless Israel withdraws from Lebanon and from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, terrorism and counterterrorism will remain the pointless fate hanging over innocent people.

AL-AHRAM on 'Secret' PLO-Israeli Dialogue

NC3107085889 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2138 GMT 30 Jul 89

[Text] Cairo, 30 Jul (MENA)—The newspaper AL-AHRAM asserts that the PLO did well by revealing that secret contacts had taken place between its representatives and Israeli delegates, who included a member of the Likud Central Committee and two members of the Labor Party's Central Bureau.

In an editorial appearing in Monday's edition, the paper says that the timing of this revelation was appropriate. Similarly, the revelation came in the form of a campaign which escalated in insistence and intensity for several days in the face of absolute Israeli denial. The paper notes that this denial gradually collapsed until no one took notice of it or even dared to repeat it, especially after the PLO reported accurate details of the meeting including names, descriptions, and the subjects discussed.

AL-AHRAM adds that reports had been made on other occasions about previous meetings between PLO representatives and Israeli officials or notable personalities which were held with the help of private initiatives or mediations by foreign parties. The paper says that these reports, however, were never as important as the report about the latest meeting in Vienna, nor had the PLO taken so much care to publicize them, which proves that this meeting had reached an apex with regard to its importance, timing, and participants.

AL-AHRAM notes that the importance of the meeting arises from the fact that it was held to discuss a document which the PLO had previously prepared and which included seven principles which the PLO says must be accepted in advance before it agrees to enter into a dialogue with the Israeli Government. The paper further

comments that the importance of the meeting appears to proceed from the fact that it was a direct channel to convey the PLO's conditions. This indicates that it was used by the Israelis to probe attitudes and acquire knowledge. It also proves that the PLO is not throwing itself at the Israelis without any conditions as it had been understood or alleged before.

The paper adds that the meeting is important because it took place within a symposium in which a Palestinian delegation participated, along with an Israeli one, as well as European, U.S., and Soviet delegations, making it similar to a miniature international conference. The paper says that this signifies that it was not a meeting of a few low-level individuals.

AL-AHRAM notes that the timing of the meeting reveals the duplicity of Israeli policy on the one hand and exposes the falsity of its campaigns to stop the U.S. dialogue with the PLO on the other. It is not reasonable, the paper points out, for Israel to demand that this dialogue be stopped while it is conducting secret high-level dialogues with the PLO.

Ghali Urges Lebanon Committee To Continue Efforts

NC0108161289 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 1 Aug 89

[Text] Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, has reacted to the statement of the foreign ministers of the Arab Tripartite Committee entrusted with resolving the Lebanese crisis in which they said that their endeavors have reached a deadlock in both the security and political fields. He said that Egypt has supported and still supports the efforts of this committee, which acts according to and in the spirit of the Casablanca Arab summit resolutions. He stated that Egypt exhorts this committee to continue its efforts, despite the difficulties and obstacles facing it. Egypt appeals to all the parties concerned to cooperate with the committee. He said the Arab nation is now required to find effective means to establish security in Lebanon in order to lay the foundations for a settlement to the Lebanese problem.

Security Services Arrest Al-Jihad Group Leader

JN0108195289 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 31 Jul 89 p 3

[Text] Cairo—AL-ITTIHAD—The Egyptian security services have arrested 'Abd-al-Khaliq Ibrahim al-Najjar, known as Fathi al-Najjar, one of the prominent leaders of Al-Jihad organization. The public funds intelligence department [mabahith al-amwal al-'ammah] at the Egyptian Interior Ministry charged Al-Najjar with trading with hard currency to finance the organization's operations. Al-Najjar was arrested five times in the past.

Further on Case of 3 Jihad Suspects

JN3107174589 Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic 31 Jul 89 p 4

[By Hamdi Rizq]

[Text] ROSE AL-YUSUF has learned that the three suspects in last week's murder of a member of Al-Jihad organization in al-Basatin are members of an extremist clandestine organization called the "New Islamic Revolution." The group is not related to the Al-Jihad Organization and maintains other chapters in many governorates.

In organizing the movements of the group, the organization employs an advanced set of digital codes found in a small book seized by police. The code was devised by the leader of the organization, 39-year-old 'Adil Zaghlul.

The journal kept by the leader of the organization contained a set of complete plans to blow up vital installations in Cairo and governorates as well as guidlines under which the group works. The book features the names of members of the group.

According to the confessions of the wife of the leader, he had made frequent visits to Iran, the most recent being in the summer when he stayed there for 2 months.

The suspects confessed that the motive behind murdering Wa'il Safwan Rashwan was his defection and professing ideas at odds with the ideology of the group. He had also constantly ridiculed his former colleagues and failed to be responsive to their attempts. [sentence as published]

Police are now conducting intensive investigations to catch the fourth suspect, Shafi' Majd 'Ali Majd, who fled after the murder came to light.

Libya

Involvement in 1987 Ship Hijacking Denied

LD0208100889 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1410 GMT 1 Aug 89

[Text] Tripoli [dateline as received]—An official source at the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and Cooperation has stated to JANA that there was no truth in what some French papers had published hinting at the involvement of Libya in the incident of hijacking the ship (?Silko) late in 1987. The source expressed astonishment at the statement made by a French official yesterday in which he pointed out what can be described as an unconfirmed possibility that the ship was hijacked near the Libyan coast.

The source reaffirmed that the Great Jamahiriyah had no connection with that incident and that the efforts that were made by the Great Jamahiriyah and that succeeded

in freeing some hostages stemmed from pure humane motives and that no interpretation or dimensions other than those should be given to the Libyan efforts.

The official source reminded world public opinion of the firm stance of the Great Jamahiriyah and of its continued condemnation of all hijacking operations which took place or are taking place against innocent persons, saying it is a kind of terrorism which is totally rejected.

SDAR's Abdelaziz, Al-Qadhdhafi on OAU Summit

LD2907015989 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 28 Jul 89

[Text] The Algerian press agency has reported that Mr Mohamed Abdelaziz, president of the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic [SDAR] and general secretary of the Polisario Front, was received in Tripoli yesterday [27 July] by Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, and held lengthy talks with him.

The meeting between the two sides centered on the results of the 25th OAU summit and the latest developments in the Western Sahara, especially with regard to the implementation of the UN-OAU plan for peace in the region.

Mr Abdelaziz arrived in the Libyan capital from Addis Ababa where he has led the Sahrawi delegation to the proceedings of the 25th OAU summit.

SFRY Foreign Minister Loncar Visits

Arrives With Delegation

LD2907121989 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1140 GMT 29 Jul 89

[Excerpt] Tripoli, 29 Jul (JANA)—Yugoslav Federal Secretary for Foreign Affairs Budimir Loncar and an accompanying delegation arrived in Tripoli this morning on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

In a statement to JANA, the Yugoslav minister expressed his pleasure at visiting the Great Jamahiriyah. He said that relations between the Jamahiriyah and Yugoslavia are very advanced and cover all fields, and he stressed that this visit assumes special significance as it comes prior to the nonaligned summit conference. [passage omitted]

Meets With Al-Qadhdhafi

LD3007151689 Tripoli JANA in English 1423 GMT 30 Jul 89

[Text] Tripoli, Nasir 30 [30 July] JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader of the revolution received the foreign minister of Yugoslavia, Budomir Loncar, who is on a visit to Great Jamahiryah.

Praises Relations, Departs

LD3007195689 Tripoli JANA in English 1838 GMT 30 Jul 89

[Text] Tripoli, Nasir [July] 30, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The Yugoslav Foreign Minister Budimir Loncar and the delegation in his company left Tripoli today after a visit to Great Jamahiriyah. The minister lauded, in a statement to JANA, the high level reached by bilateral relations between Great Jamahiriyah and Yugoslavia asserting the need to enhance and develop them further for the mutual benefit of the two friendly countries.

He said "The existing distinctive ties between Jamahiriyah and Yugoslavia have been strong for the last 20 years making them full of mutual and deep trust at all levels. [no closing quotation mark as received]

The minister pointed out that the visit provided the opportunity to hold talks on preparations for the Non Aligned Movement summit conference to be held in Belgrade. He stressed the effective role assumed by Great Jamahiriyah in the Non Aligned Movement.

Sudan

Al-Bashir To Hold Talks With Al-Qadhdhafi

EA0108154889 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1055 GMT 1 Aug 89

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 1 Aug (SUNA)—Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the National Salvation Revolutionary Command Council, will leave for Libya tomorrow, heading a high-level delegation on a 2-day visit. During the visit he will meet the Libyan leader, Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. The visit is one of a series of visits being made by Lt Gen 'Umar al-Bashir to fraternal and friendly countries to explain developments affecting the situation in Sudan. The Sudanese and Libyan sides will hold talks on strengthening and developing bilateral relations and will discuss issues of joint interest. [passage omitted]

Libyan Media Interview Lt Gen Al-Bashir

LD0108204889 Tripoli JANA in English 1656 GMT 1 Aug 89

[Text] Khartoum, Hanibal [August] 1, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Lt. Gen, 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir the president of the Revolutionary Command Council in Sudan confirmed that the new leadership in Sudan was anxious to establish outstanding relations with great Jamahiriyah in all political, economic, military, cultural and social fields.

In a meeting with Libyan Arab informational delegation consisting of JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY, AL-ZAHF AL-AKHDHAR, JAMAHIRIYAH newspaper, the television, AL-JAMAHIRIYAH magazine and The Voice of the Big Arab Homeland—the voice of the

revolutionary committees radio, Lt. Gen. Al-Bashir said: "Many goals unite us with our brothers in Great Jamahiriyah the most important of which is the unity trend, for Arab unity is our strategic goal". He confirmed that small entities had become non-existant and can not survive and live in this era because it is the era of power and there is no power except in unity.

He praised the establishment of the unity Arab gatherings: The Arab Maghreb Union, the Arab Cooperation Council and the Gulf Cooperation Council.

He pointed out that such gatherings constitute a practical step and healthy inclinations towards establishing the pan Arab unity.

Lt. Gen. 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir the president of the Revolutionary Command Council in sisterly Sudan confirmed the importance of the Arab union project proposed by the leader of the revolution Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to Arab kings, presidents and emirs saying "Sudan will work very seriously to boost all unity projects within such a framework."

He said during his meeting with the Libyan Arab media delegation: "Sudan today is more qualified to join any Arab unionist gathering or to create a new Arab gathering which includes Great Jamahiriyah, Egypt and Sudan, because we have the necessary potentials to create a strong economic group."

Lt. Gen. 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir the president of the Revolutionary Command Council in sisterly Sudan said: "The Sudanese people had experienced conflicts between party orientiated regimes, each regime was worst than the one before it. During such experience we decided to bring about a free democratic regime in which the people are able to express truly itself without the inherited party forms and the alien experience on our land which was brought from the West to be planted on our land".

During his meeting with the Libyan Arab delegation Lt. Gen. 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir explained: "We decided to bring about an experience stemming from within us. Such an experience is based upon a broad base that promotes the people's leaderships democratically and its them that can take decisions in matters of concern to the country and to run the ruling apparatus in the country".

Lt. Gen. 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir the president of the Revolutionary Command Council in sisterly Sudan confirmed that the settlement of the south Sudan problem would be through negotiations, because it is the ideal solution that will put an end to this problem.

During his meeting with the Libyan Arab media delegation he added: "We showed good intention in this direction. We declared a ceasefire from the government's side. We also announced an amnesty on all those who carried arms against the government since 1983. We announced the continuation of the relief efforts in the regions controlled by the movement in the south".

Responding to a question on the programme proposed to activate the Sudanese economy, Lt. Gen. 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir said: "Of the priorities of the revolution in Sudan is the achievement of prosperity to the Sudanese people which cannot be accomplished except by economic development which has become linked first to achieving peace and ending the war and existing conflicts inside Sudan."

Al-Bashir on Possible Union With Egypt, Libya

NC0208074089 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 2 Aug 89

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of Sudan's Revolution Command Council, has said that there is a possibility of forming a new Arab grouping including Sudan, Egypt, and Libya. Al-Bashir said that the formation of Arab groupings is a practical step on the way to achieve total Arab unity.

Al-Bashir on Arab Relations, African Cause

EA1807132589 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 17 Jul 89

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the National Salvation Revolution Command Council, has stressed the importance of upholding Sudanese-Arab relations, especially with the (?Arab Republic of Egypt). His excellency told the Cairo radio correspondent in Khartoum that democracy would be practiced in Sudan under a new formula. In reply to a question on Sudan's attitude toward the Arab causes, his excellency stressed that Sudan always upheld the causes of the Arab nation. On the Palestinian cause, he said Sudan stood with all its human and material resources by the Palestinian people to enable them to regain their legitimate rights. He also expressed support for the efforts being made by the tripartite Arab committee which is seeking a solution to the Lebanese problem.

Replying to a question on Sudan's attitude towards the African causes to be discussed during the 25th OAU summit to be held in Addis Ababa, Lt Gen 'Umar said: Sudan shares the attitude of its African brothers in aspiring to solutions for all the political and economic problems, particularly that of Africa's indebtedness.

Al-Zubayr Ends Gulf Tour; Promises 'Results'

EA2407185089 Omdurman Domestic Service in English 1945 GMT 23 Jul 89

[Text] The deputy president of the RCC [Revolutionary Command Council], Brigadier al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, and the accompanying delegation arrived in Khartoum this afternoon from Baghdad after concluding his state tour to a number of Gulf countries. Brig al-Zubayr told reporters upon arrival that he explained to the heads

of the countries he visited the situation in the Sudan and conveyed to them the revolution's compliments for their support to the Sudan. Brig al-Zubayr also stated that he held meetings with the Sudanese expatriates in the Gulf area. He said the expatriates have shown understanding and appreciation of the situation in the Sudan, adding that the results of this visit shall show up very soon.

Air Force Helicopter Crashes; 16 Killed

EA0108163689 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1425 GMT 1 Aug 89

[Text] Khartoum, 1 Aug (SUNA)—Sixteen officers and other ranks of the Armed Forces and members of their families were killed last night when an Air Force helicopter on its way from Kassala, in the eastern region, to Khartoum flew into a thunderstorm.

The Armed Forces General Command Headquarters said in a statement today that the aircraft which was on a routine transport mission went down in Qayli, in the Battanah area, and all the passengers it was carrying were killed, including the crew consisting of Air Force Colonel Mahmud 'Abd-al-Fattah Abu-Azayd, Air Force Lieutenant 'Ubayd Adam Qusaysah, and Technician Jawdah Abdullah, in addition to staff Brigadier Ahmad Muhammad Nur Khalil, Staff Brigadier Ahmad Muhammad Ahmad Abdullah, Staff Colonel 'Abd-al-Latif Busharah Ahmad and eight members of his family, Corporal al-Shirinini Muhammad al-Shaykh, and Corporal Ahmad Adam Ahmad Hamid.

SPLM Promises Safe Passage for Relief Train

EA0108155589 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 1 Aug 89

[Text] The SPLM/SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Movement/Army] task force on emergency relief Operation Lifeline Sudan has reaffirmed the movement's commitment to provide safety to the relief train now ready to leave for Aweil.

The task force assures those concerned that the movement will take all possible steps to aid and protect the train as it passes through SPLA-held territory.

SPLA Chief Garang's 1 Aug Speech Postponed

EA0108155889 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 1 Aug 89

[Text] The commander in chief and chairman of SPLM-SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Movement/Army], Comrade John Garang de Mabior, was scheduled to deliver a major address to the Sudanese people today, Tuesday 1st August 1989. Radio SPLA apologizes to its listeners that this is not possible today for reasons beyond our control. The date of the speech will be announced soon, at least 24 hours in advance. Please keep tuned to radio SPLA.

Kuwait

Daily Warns of Any U.S. 'Military Adventure'

LD0208092989 Kuwait KUNA in English 0804 GMT 2 Aug 89

[Text] Kuwait, Aug 2 (KUNA)—A Kuwaiti daily Wednesday wondered how come the U.S. was angry and bitter over the reported slaying of an American hostage, regardless of how cruel it was, and its silence toward the displacement of a whole nation.

The paper said for the sake of Col. William Higgins American fleets were moved and Israeli forces mobilized but the U.S. was not moved by Israel's displacement of the Palestinian people, invasion of Lebanon in 1982, bombing of Palestinian refugee camps or abduction of the Lebanese clergy Shaykh 'Ubayd.

AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM warned the U.S. of any military adventure in Lebanon and reminded it of the presence in that Arab country of numerous suicide groups and arms of various types. The daily charged that operations such as the kidnap of hostages, by parties pretending to be civilized, would only expand the cycle of violence.

Saudi Arabia

Source Denounces 'Ubayd Abduction, Higgins Death

LD0108211889 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2059 GMT 1 Aug 89

[Text] Riyadh, 1 Aug (SPA)—An authoritative source has condemned the kidnapping of Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd, an official in south Lebanon; the source also denounced the killing of Colonel William Higgins, a member of the UNIFIL forces in South Lebanon.

In a statement to SPA today, the source stated that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia always denounces and condemns terrorist acts in all forms and methods. The source expressed the indignation of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia with regard to these inhuman acts, and described them as outrageous.

Statement on PDRY Official's Visit Issued

LD0208101889 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1345 GMT 1 Aug 89

[Text] Jeddah, 1 Aug (SPA)—Following the visit of His Excellency Dr Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, the PDRY [People's Democratic Republic of Yemen] Council of Ministers chairman and Politburo member, to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the following press statement was issued:

In a fraternal atmosphere in which frankness and concern for the common interests of the two fraternal countries prevailed, friendly talks were held between the two delegations—the PDRY under the chairmanship of brother Dr Yasin Sa'id Nu'man, PDRY Politburo member and Council of Ministers chairman, and the Saudi side under the chairmanship of His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz—during the period of 30-31 July 1989. His excellency met during the same period of his official visit to the Kingdom with the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz.

During these meetings, the fraternal bilateral relations and future cooperation in various fields, in a manner that serves the interests of the two fraternal peoples—the Yemenis and the Saudis—and contributes to the bolstering of security and stability in the region, were discussed. In this connection, the Yemeni side denounced the recent explosions in the holy city of Mecca.

It was stressed that the second ministerial committee session between the two countries should be held at the earliest possible oportunity, to be agreed by the foreign ministers of the two countries.

The two sides reviewed the treatment of the subjects of South Yemen in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and agreement was reached to facilitate the procedures concerning their movements and work in the Kingdom.

The Yemeni and Saudi sides then referred to the situation and developments in the Arab arena and expressed their attention to the escalation of the struggle of the Palestinian people in its blessed uprising and the importance of supporting and backing the Palestinian people in their struggle and right to self-determination and the establishment of its independent state under the leadership of the PLO, their sole legitimate representative, by the Arab peoples and the Islamic nation. The two sides condemned the Zionist acts of oppression against the peaceful sons of the Palestinian people who are demanding their freedom and liberation from the nightmare of Zionist occupation.

The two sides expressed interest in the regrettable development and the tragic deterioration taking place in Lebanon and the subsequent serious results of this deterioration on all levels: Lebanese, Arab, and international. The two sides stressed the importance of making more efforts within the framework of the endeavors of the higher Arab tripartite committee, stemming from the Casablanca summit, to halt the fighting in Lebanon and establish peace there to preserve the unity of Lebanon—people and land. The two sides stressed also the importance of making more joint Arab efforts along the path of strengthening the fraternal links and relations and Arab solidarity within the framework of the Arab League and in affirmation of the positive results of the Casablanca summit.

President's Envoy to King Husayn Departs Baghdad

JN0108194089 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 1 Aug 89

[Text] President Saddam Husayn's envoy Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Revolutionary Command Council and first deputy prime minister, left Baghdad for Amman this evening. In a statement to INA, he said that he carries a message from President leader Saddam Husayn to his brother His Majesty King Husayn Ibn-Talal. The message deals with cooperation between the two countries and the prospects of its promotion, as well as the latest developments on the Arab scene, he added.

Ramadan said the visit comes within the directives of President leader Saddam Husayn on the need to continue contacts with brothers, exchange views with them, coordinate positions on Arab situations, and consolidate Arab solidarity through common Arab action.

He described Iraqi-Jordanian relations as distinguished and excellent, characterized by constant comprehensive progress. This, he said, has reflected positively on the bilateral relations between the other Arab countries.

Daily Urges Support for Tripartite Committee

JN0108124589 Baghdad INA in English 0910 GMT 1 Aug 89

[Text] Baghdad, Aug. 1, INA—AL-JUMHURIYAH daily of Baghdad called for a unified Arab attitude to prevent Syria from committing further crimes in Lebanon and also to assess the subversive role of the Syrian regime in Arab life.

A daily commentary here today said the Syrian regime was escalating tension in Lebanon to challenge the course of dialogue and understanding of the tripartite Arab committee on Lebanon and to block its efforts for reaching a breakthrough to the crisis.

It added that the Syrian logic in Lebanon was that of invasion and occupation and that crimes perpetrated in Lebanon were those committed by occupying invaders.

It stressed that the Syrian regime does not want an Arab just settlement to the Lebanese issue and 18 cooperating with the Zionist entity for disintegrating this Arab country.

AL-JUMHURIYAH further added that the Syrian regime insists on obstructing work of the Arab committee and press with dirty means for backing one Lebanese party against the other and impedes any Lebanese national reconciliation for attaining a just and balanced settlement.

It added that the Syrian regime also attempts to keep its invading forces in Lebanon to fight this or that Lebanese party and cooperates with the Zionist entity and the Iranian regime was not keen on the unity of Lebanon since it confronts any Arab help to find a settlement to the Lebanese crisis.

AL-JUMHURIYAH further said that Iraq supports the tripartite Arab committee and calls Arab countries to back this committee and press on the Syrian regime with all means to stop committing further crimes in Lebanon.

It added that it was necessary to provide favourable climate to work for achieving a balanced and just settlement to the Lebanese issue.

The crimes perpetrated by Syrian forces in Lebanon should be added to the black dossier of the Syrian regime.

AL-JUMHURIYAH on Aims of Iran 'Alliance'

JN0108124389 Baghdad INA in English 0930 GMT 1 Aug 89

[Text] Baghdad, Aug. 1, INA—AL-JUMHURIYAH daily of Baghdad said that strategic alliance between Tehran and Damascus started in 1981 was after establishing a geopolitic blockade around Iraq.

A daily commentary here today said that for attaining this objective Syrian regime obstructed flow of the Euphrates waters to Iraq and suspended flow of Iraqi oil across Syria in 1982.

The daily added that the second objective of this alliance was to weaken the Arab camp and encouraging Iran for aggression in addition to underestimating the regional Arab security which was clear in Damascus disgraceful attitude on the question of occupying the three Arab islands, Iranian aggression on Iraqi borders and tricky stand towards disturbances staged by Iran pilgrims in holy Mecca in July 1987.

AL-JUMHURIYAH added that the other target of the Damascus-Tehran alliance was to blackmail Arab oil countries through encouraging Iran to demonstrate the use of force or terrorist organizations and then mediate between this and that party to take the price for such mediation.

The alliance was also after strengthening grip over Lebanon and assisting Iran in sending Iranian saboteurs from the Iranian guards to Lebanon through Damascus in addition to dispatching military experts and weapons.

The daily added that these evidences are reviewed today on occasion of the Syrian minister's statements which underestimate the Arab thinking and completely demonstrate bias alongside Iran.

Knesset Rejects 3 No-Confidence Motions

TA0208101089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 2 Aug 89

[Text] The Knesset has rejected the three no-confidence motions submitted against the government over the kidnapping of Shaykh 'Ubayd. The vote ended a short time ago. Our correspondent Ze'ev Kohen reports that 31 Knesset members [MK] voted against the no-confidence motions, 5 supported them, and MK Yosi Sarid of the CRM [Citizens Rights Movement] abstained.

Our correspondent reports that the CRM, MAPAM [United Workers Party], and Shinuy did not participate in the debate. They claimed that current circumstances are serious and sensitive and that lives are at stake. They asserted that any public discussion in the midst of the crisis cannot be helpful.

Rabin Addresses Knesset on 'Ubayd, Hostages

TA0208084989 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0658 GMT 2 Aug 89

[Speech by Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin in Knesset plenum in response to three no-confidence motions submitted by Knesset Members Wilner, Mi'ari, and Darawshah—live]

[Text] [Broadcast monitored in progress] ... only one purpose. To bring our sons back. To bring home those IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers being held prisoner or who are missing in action—this through the acquisition of a person considered valuable by the terrorist organization so we could effect an exchange. The operation was carried out with the endorsement of the Government of Israel, and only the Israeli Government holds responsibility for it. We did not include any other country in the operation before it took place. We did not even supply any country with any details about it.

Knesset Members, in the framework of the general policy of the war on terror in all its forms and against all its organizations, there is a principle which directs us as to how to behave when Israeli hostages are taken captive by various bodies, including the various terrorist organizations. These guidelines are based on two possibilities: the first, which is preferable if viable, is to release the prisoners through a military operation. We usd this option in the Entebbe operation in 1976, but if we have no military option—after examining every way of implementing this option over an extended period of time—then we are willing to enter negotiations to exchange our prisoners, detainees, and hostages for the prisoners, detainees, and convicts that we hold in Israel.

This is the policy. We have chosen this way several times in the past and have paid a high price, which showed the public in Israel and the entire world the supreme importance we in Israel attach to the life of every soldier, and every Israeli, who falls into the captivity of the enemy or is kidnapped because he is Jewish or Israeli.

To enable us to achieve this goal, we must hold commanders and leaders of importance who belong to these terrorist organizations in Lebanon, because only when these leaders are in our power will we be able to motivate the terrorist elements to carry out a prisoner exchange.

I would like to repeat and emphasize that since the inception of the IDF and until the present day, an iron rule has been kept. We are fully committed to the continued implementation of this rule. We will not forgo this rule, and it is one of the foundations of our strength against those who rise against us. We do not abandon IDF soldiers and other security personnel. Every Israeli soldier setting out on a mission on behalf of the State of Israel knows and must also know in the future that the IDF and the entire country will spare no effort to rescue him from any predicament. Many of the best soldiers in the IDF have lost their lives in preserving the sanctity of this principle.

As defense minister, as someone who served in the Army for 27 years, I am convinced with all my heart that a soldier who sets out on operational activity, while endangering his life, draws strength and comfort from the knowledge that he enjoys all possible support, and that everything, absolutely everything, will be done to bring him back home safely.

The comradeship of soldiers, which is formed on the battlefield, is the guiding light that leads the rank and file. The soldiers' fellowship is what gives the IDF its quality and moral superiority over other armies. I know that there are nations that behave differently. Every country chooses its path. We find the source of our pride in the fact that Israel regards its soldiers as worthy of the utmost consideration, and makes sure it gets them back home safely.

Knesset Members, on 17 February 1986, two IDF soldiers were captured in southern Lebanon by members of the Shiite terrorist organization, Hizballah. The two soldiers, Yosef Fink and Rahamim Alshekh, were captured in southern Lebanon and transferred to a hiding place unknown to us somewhere in Lebanon. Since their capture, all our offers of prisoner exchanges—through the International Red Cross [IRC] or through various international bodies and countries—have been rejected. We have furthermore been denied any information on their fate through these international bodies. We have not been shown any signs of life since they were captured by Hizballah. We hold Hizballah responsible for their safety and health.

On 16 October 1986, Captain Ron Arad, the navigator of a Phantom jet, fell captive to the Amal organization. This happened during his participation in an attack on bases in the Sidon area. At first we had reliable reports on his fate, and we made the most intensive effort to trade him for Lebanese terrorists held by us. The International Red Cross, international bodies, and countries whose leaders wished to help us also participated in these

stages. After a short while these contacts, too, were severed, and for approximately 2 years we have had almost no knowledge of Ron Arad's fate. We have regarded and continue to regard Amal as responsible for the fate, life, and well-being of Ron Arad.

Knesset Members, over the years we have made extraordinary efforts to secure the release of our prisoners from the clutches of the terrorists. I am not at liberty to divulge, even now, the details of these efforts which have spanned almost the entire world. But to our great sorrow, these efforts have so far been unsuccessful. All our appeals did not help. The Israeli Government therefore decided to instruct the IDF to capture the Hizballah leader in southern Lebanon so that we would have in our hands a valuable asset for the purpose of a prisoner exchange. As part of his duties, as the man holding the post of senior Hizballah official in the south, Shaykh 'Ubayd since 1983 has played a central role in that terror organization with respect to attacks on Israel, instigating and exhorting his followers to carry them out. Shaykh 'Ubayd is involved in hostile terrorist activity, transferring funds and weapons, concealing terrorists, and above all, in approving nearly every major operation conducted by Hizballah in southern Lebanon over the past few years. Among other things, the shaykh was involved in kidnapping the two IDF soldiers in February 1986. He has admitted that the planners stayed in his home, from where they left to carry out the abduction of the two IDF soldiers in February 1986. He was involved in the kidnapping of Colonel Higgins, who belonged to a group of UN observers. 'Ubayd has testified that the three who kidnapped the colonel stayed at his home the day before perpetrating the crime. At least one of them returned to his house afterward. The car in which the kidnapping was effected was hidden in the garage of 'Ubayd's house for 1 month.

All this is according to 'Ubayd's own admission. The shaykh is suspected of direct complicity in rigging booby-trapped cars, and of other terrorist attacks such as Hizballah's launching of katyusha rockets. These attacks took place during the period when his approval was necessary for the execution of these acts. We also have reason to assume that he had a hand in the operation perpetrated by Hizballah in which a car bomb exploded at ('Egel) Gate [of an IDF camp in southern Lebanon] in March 1985. The blast caused the death of 12 IDF soldiers; an additional 20 were injured.

As stated earlier, the IDF operation in Jibshit was carried out with great success, and Shaykh 'Ubayd and two of his aides were transferred to Israeli territory. From this podium, I would like to use this opportunity to congratulate the chief of staff, the IDF commanders, and the unit which carried out the operation, all its soldiers and commanders, for the way it fulfilled its mission.

Knesset Members, in the stages of planning and approving the operation to capture the shaykh, we took into account all the retaliatory options that the Hizballah activists might take. I will not detail them here. In analyzing the options, we noted them all, including the possibility of what actually happened and even worse scenarios. Let me add this: The Inner Cabinet approved the operation nearly 2 months ago. It should have originally taken place 1 month earlier. I approached the Inner Cabinet and requested a postponement when a tiny flicker of hope of a chance for a dialogue was sensed. Only when it petered out and eventually disappeared altogether did I again seek Inner Cabinet approval—1 month later than the original approval. I am telling you this to make it clear how much thought was given to it and how carefully we considered all the other options before carrying out the operation.

Knesset Members, this is not the first time that Hizballah has attacked innocent people. In 1985 and 1986, Hizballah executed eight Jewish inhabitants of Beirut, whose bodies were thrown into the streets after that organization's demand that we order IDF soldiers to withdraw from southern Lebanon was rejected. The hands of this organization are smeared with the blood of guiltless innocent people, Jews and non-Jews, who were entrapped in the Lebanese inferno. That organization is responsible for, among other things, the death of more than 300 Americans, plus Frenchmen, who were killed in the explosion of booby-trapped cars in Lebanon. There is no bloody act that this organization is incapable of committing and which it has not actually committed. The most heinous acts, the brainchild of the sickest of minds, were perpetrated by this group of fanatics, which draws its inspiration from Khomeyni's Iran. They are capable of anything. Indeed, after the operation, they threatened to execute Lt Col William Higgins, a U.S. citizen, who came to the region on a mission of peace but fell captive in the hands of the Hizballah fanatics.

Knesset Members, in addition to Israel's declared and well-known policy on its readiness to carry out an exchange for our POW's and MIA's, insofar as Lebanon and the Shiite organizations and terrorists are concerned, I feel it right to offer a comprehensive swap that would include, in addition to the Israeli prisoners, also Western hostages, and the Shiite detainees, prisoners, and hostages held by us. I therefore issued the following communique, which was sanctioned by the Cabinet, which I shall proceed to read out:

A. Israel is again calling for the release of Israeli POW's and the other hostages held by the Shiite organizations in Lebanon.

B. Israel is offering an exchange of POWs, detainees, and hostages. According to this proposal, all Israeli POW's and foreign hostages being held captive by the Shiite organizations will be exchanged for all the Shiite detainees held by Israel, including Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd, Jawad Kaspi, and others.

C. The exchange will be carried out via the IRC in accordance with the procedure customary in such cases. Finally, the end of the announcement.... [indistinct heckling from the floor] I would like to remind the Knesset that Hizballah is still holding 18 Western hostages; therefore, this offer stands even today.

Let me add: The IRC appealed to us as early as last Friday, asking that a visit to Shaykh 'Ubayd be permitted. We informed the IRC that we will agree to such a visit on the basis of reciprocity, once the Red Cross is permitted to visit our POWs and MIAs. We stand by our statement.

Knesset Members, to this very minute, the body of Col Higgins has not been found, and the UN Forces in Lebanon have been unable to provide positive confirmation of his death. They are not accustomed to doing so without absolutely firm evidence. At this time we cannot tell whether Col Higgins was executed indeed the day before yesterday, or whether he was killed by his captors a few months ago. We have several reports indicating that the colonel was killed in Lebanon as far back as several months ago, but I cannot provide conclusive confirmation of this information. One way or another, a photograph was published this past Monday, showing that the U.S. colonel had been executed. Assuming that this is the case, I would like to extend the sympathy of the Government of Israel and the nation as a whole to the Higgins family and the entire U.S. nation, which sends people on peaceful missions which put their lives at risk.

Knesset Members, let me assert again that no act of madness by Hizballah or any other terrorist organization will deter us from fulfilling our mission in the war against the various terrorist bodies and in safeguarding the lives of Israeli citizens wherever they may be. The Israeli Government views this as its supreme moral duty, and no effort will be spared to obtain the safe return home of soldiers who are sent on behalf of the state and in its defense.

It is a difficult hour for us, the Israelis, for the U.S. people, and for the entire free, civilized, and enlightened world. At this hour and from this podium, I would like to extend a brotherly hand, in your names, too, to the families of our POWs and MIAs, who are going through difficult and worrisome hours. I would like to encourage them and wish that they will live to see their sons come back home. I propose that the Knesset reject the no-confidence motions submitted by several Knesset Members here.

Inner Cabinet Briefed; Kelly, UN's Goulding Due

TA0208105189 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1000 GMT 2 Aug 89

[Report by political correspondent Natan Gutman]

[Text] [Gutman] Today Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin briefed the Inner Cabinet on the hostage affair in Lebanon. Rabin also provided details on the progress made in the questioning of Shaykh 'Ubayd. The session was short, lasting less than 1 hour.

A U.S. State Department delegation headed by John Kelly is expected in Israel any moment now. It will meet with the foreign minister and the vice prime minister today. Kelly will play an important role in the attempt to resolve the hostage affair.

A few hours later UN Under Secretary General Marrack Goulding will be arriving here, too. He will leave for Lebanon directly upon landing at Ben-Gurion Airport. In Lebanon he will try to meet with Shiite leaders. So far, he has not been scheduled to meet with any Israeli official.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir consulted with Foreign Minister Moshe Arens on the hostages today. The Foreign Ministry's emergency team held more sporadic meetings today. It heard encouraging reports on a marked change in the tone of world statements about Israel. The change can be felt both on the decisionmaking level as well as in world media.

UN Chief, Matnay Meeting Sparks Rumors of Deal

TA0208063489 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 2 Aug 89 p 1

[Report by Walter Ruby]

[Text] United Nations—Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar held a brief meeting late yesterday with Israeli Consul-General David Matnay, leading to speculation here that some kind of deal might be worked out to save the hostages. But Israeli sources here said no such deal had been discussed, and that Perez de Cuellar had spent much of the short meeting seeking to determine if Israel had information about the hostages which was not available to the UN.

The meeting was called after the announcement that Marrack Goulding, undersecretary in charge of peacekeeping would be sent to Lebanon to investigate what happened to Lt.-Col. William Higgins and to try to recover his body if he is dead. Sources here say it is possible that Goulding would visit Israel during his visit to the area.

Commenting on the meeting between Matnay and Perez de Cuellar, which lasted under 10 minutes, Israeli spokesman Barukh Bina said the two men "discussed the situation regarding the hostages...(Matnay) expressed Israel's deep concern regarding the hostages, and (Matnay) assured the secretary general he would stay in close touch." Bina said Perez de Cuellar had used the occasion to congratulate Jeremy Issacharoff, a political counsellor here who returns to Israel next week, on the completion of three years of service.

More Steps To Free POW's Will Be Taken If Needed

TA0108164189 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1600 GMT 1 Aug 89

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said tonight that if the need arises to take additional steps to bring about the release of the Israeli POW's, the government will take them. In responding to journalists' questions, Shamir refused to go into details about what these steps were.

Shamir also said that despite Hizballah's announcement that the exchange-of-prisoners proposal was ridiculous, the offer stands.

Contacts for the release of the Israeli hostages continue as before the abduction of Shaykh 'Ubayd.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1600 GMT on 1 August carries a similar report in which the prime minister states, "Colonel Higgins is apparently no longer alive. We are shocked by this cruel action, and express our deep sympathy for the bereaved family and the bereaved American people."]

Netanyahu Sees 'Chance' for Hostage Release

TA0208051689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0405 GMT 2 Aug 89

[Telephone interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu by moderator Me'ir Einstein—live]

[Text] [Einstein] Good morning, Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu.

[Netanyahu] Good morning.

[Einstein] You are heading the emergency team that was set up yesterday at the Foreign Ministry, but first of all we would like a confirmation, denial, or some sort of reaction to reports from the United States that secret contacts to effect a prisoner exchange are already under way.

[Netanyahu] Look, it is no secret that for some time we have been trying to implement the proposal we suggested—namely, exchanging the Shiite detainees we hold, as well as Shaykh 'Ubayd, for our POW's and all the other Western hostages. This proposal stands, and we are trying to implement it through various channels.

[Einstein] Have we already received anything to go on? Some positive reaction implying that there is some room for discussion?

[Netanyahu] I prefer not to go into details on these contacts. I can only confirm that the proposal is still valid, and we hope that it will be accepted.

[Einstein] Is Israel encouraged by the fact that Hizballah has postponed its ultimatum?

[Netanyahu] Of course it is preferable that the ultimatum be postponed, rather than carried out. In general, however, we are not dealing with the ultimatums right now. We are dealing with the basic approach. We are actually trying to achieve two goals here. One of these goals is to get our people home. The second goal is obviously not to capitulate to terror.

[Einstein] Do you estimate our chances of bringing our men home as good this morning?

[Netanyahu] In my opinion, our chances before this operation were slim or virtually nil. If you do not have a means to put pressure on this terrorist organization, on Hizballah and its leaders, you have no way to make them change their policies and release the hostages. We created this pressure, and at least today there is a chance.

[Einstein] Deputy Minister Netanyahu, the prime minister yesterday said that we have other means to release our soldiers. He understandably refused to elaborate on this matter. Do you know of any U.S. request that Israel refrain from any military action that may endanger the lives of the American hostages in Lebanon?

[Netanyahu] Look, we maintain continuous, very tight contacts with the United States, and I must say that contrary to your report, these contacts with the United States are very friendly. Our countries are allies, and the relations between them are very close, especially in a situation like this, and I think we are each well aware of the planned steps and intentions of the other. I cannot confirm—and there is no reason for me to confirm—that any pressure of any kind was exerted on us. On the contrary, there is a great deal of understanding and cooperation.

[Einstein] Deputy Minister Netanyahu, you have just finished being interviewed on ABC Television's Nightline program. I imagine you were also asked difficult questions, which did not demonstrate much of the friendship you claim exists between Israel and the United States regarding the handling of this affair. What in particular bothers the Americans?

[Netanyahu] I will surprise you. I believe I felt a definitely sympathetic tone there. In general, in everything pertaining to U.S. public opinion, I feel and see a congruence of opinion over the last 24 hours, in part due to initiated action by Israel, a congruence in the direction of our position—namely, no capitulation to terror and the use of pressure to secure the release of the hostages without abandoning these principles.

[Einstein, interrupting] Does this mean that the United States and Israel have already formed one front on all issues regarding the fight against terror?

[Netanyahu] I am not talking, of course, about the contacts between the governments. As I have already said, there is cooperation between them. But what is no less important is the fact that public opinion, according to all the signs we are receiving, is leaning more and more toward us. I must give you an example. We hear from our consulate in New York, for instance, that 3 days ago most calls coming in were hostile to Israel. The ratio was slightly more hostile calls than supportive calls. Today the ratio is 5 to 1 in our favor, with most or at least a large part of the callers not Jewish. I think this is an excellent indication of the general mood we sense in the United States.

[Einstein] Deputy Minister Netanyahu, you talk of relations with countries. There is also the question of contacts with various international bodies. Is the International Red Cross in the picture for example? Can you confirm that we have proposed that Red Cross representatives visit Shaykh 'Ubayd in return for a similar visit of our hostages by Red Cross personnel in Lebanon?

[Netanyahu] Once again, we are at a very sensitive point in time. I do not think it would be wise to go into the details of these contacts. We do not discount any channels. On the contrary, we are looking for as many venues as possible to achieve the contacts that may lead to the release of our soldiers and the rest of the hostages.

[Einstein] Thank you very much, Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu.

Higgins Died From Torture '7 Months Ago'

TA0208044589 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 2 Aug 89

[Text] In Jerusalem, the Foreign Ministry's emergency team will today resume its hourly meetings to hear the latest developments in the hostages affair, and U.S. Assistant Secretary of State John Kelly arrives today on his first visit to Israel. Jack Katzenell reports:

[Begin recording] When the emergency team was set up yesterday under Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, it was decided that it would hear hourly reports from the ministry's so-called Research Center, which is really an intelligence agency, and that the meetings would go on all night if necessary. But last night at 2000 it was clear that there were no major new developments, so the team dispersed for the night and is resuming its meetings this morning.

There are persistent reports that Israel refused to allow the Red Cross to see Shaykh 'Ubayd and the two other persons seized in south Lebanon unless Hizballah allowed the Red Cross to see the hostages there. This would be a major departure from Israel's usual practice. In the past Israel has allowed the Red Cross access to detainees, usually more frequently than required by the Geneva Convention, official sources here note.

Security sources say 7 months ago Israel conveyed to the United States information indicating that Colonel Higgins had died under torture. The fact that Hizballah has not produced his body is seen in Israel as further evidence that he was not executed 2 days ago, as the Oppressed of the Earth claim.

Meanwhile, the U.S. assistant secretary of state for Middle East affairs, John Kelly, is arriving today for his first visit to Israel. The visit was planned some time ago, before the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] seized Shaykh 'Ubayd, and the agenda covers an entire range of issues, in particular the Israeli peace initiative, not just the hostage emergency.

Official sources in Jerusalem say this is not really the ideal time for such a visit, but since Kelly did not ask to have it postponed, Israel would certainly not do so. [end recording]

Jordanian Paper Claims Israel To Attack Lebanon

JN0208082089 Amman AKHBAR AL-USBU' in Arabic 2 Aug 89 p 13

[Text] International sources have stated that Israel is preparing for a sweeping offensive against south Lebanon with the aim of occupying parts of it in a desperate attempt to destroy the national Lebanese and Palestinian resistance, whose daring operations have foiled the aims of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon in the summer of 1982.

The sources added that Israel has completed its preparations for this offensive by bringing in hundreds of tanks, vehicles, and missiles and by building airfields over a long period of time.

The sources cited a ranking Israeli officer as saying the offensive will begin at any moment and will be launched under the pretext of retaliating against the execution of U.S. officer Higgins, who was executed by the Oppressed on Earth Organization in retaliation for Israel's abduction of Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd, a Shiite official in south Lebanon.

Israel had earlier alerted the Army and Israeli establishments all over the world following threats leveled against it by a Lebanese organization.

'Sources' Note 'Direct' U.S. Pressure on Syria

TA0208064789 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 2 Aug 89 pp 1, 10

[Report by diplomatic correspondent Menahem Shalev]

[Excerpt] The U.S. has warned Iran that it will be held responsible for the safety of all foreign hostages in Lebanon, and made it clear that it is set to negotiate with Tehran over a hostage swap.

The U.S. is also applying direct pressure on Syria to help stop further executions of hostages, sources in Jerusalem said last night.

The sources added that the U.S. contacts with Iran were being conducted directly as well as through third parties, and there were indications that the Soviet Union was also involved.

The sources speculated that the postponement in the deadlines for the execution of two additional hostages could well be connected with the reported negotiations.

U.S. Ambassador William Brown met with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir yesterday and at least twice with Defence Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to ascertain Israel's positions concerning the exchange of hostages.

Sources in Jerusalem said that, following yesterday's contacts and public statements by U.S. officials, Jerusalem and Washington now appear to be coordinated concerning their next moves.

Defence sources reiterated Israel's position that it would allow the Red Cross to see Sheikh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd and his two assistants if the Red Cross could also visit the three captured IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers.

It was unclear last night whether any new information had reached Jerusalem to confirm Monday night's statement by a senior Shi'ite source that all three soldiers were alive.

The scope of the hostage swap being contemplated by the U.S. was also not clear last night, although one source said that the U.S. wished to implement Israel's offer for a total swap involving all Shi'ites held by Israel—and perhaps other security prisoners as well—in exchange for all foreign hostages held by the Shi'ites and the three IDF soldiers. [passage omitted]

The Foreign Ministry instructed the embassy in Washington to contact Senate Minority leader Robert Dole in person to express Israel's great regret at his harsh criticism. The embassy was also instructed to urge Dole to recognize the importance of a united American-Israeli stand against terrorism. American Jewish organizations were asked to drum up congressional expressions of support for Israel's stance.

Officials made it clear that Israel would not unilaterally release 'Ubayd, but stressed that the U.S. had not requested such an action and was unlikely to do so. "We have to stand firm and not show any hesitation or weakness," an official in the Prime Minister's Office said. [passage omitted]

Ministry Calls For Unity in Combating Terrorism

TA0108172689 Jerusalem GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE in English 1 Aug 89

["Statement" by the Foreign Ministry spokesman, Dr. Alon Liel—issued 1 August 89]

[Text] 1. Israel fully shares the concern of President Bush, the U.S. Congress, and the American people and expresses its shock and horror regarding the information reaching us from Beirut.

2. In our ongoing stuggle against terrorism, we have found the Hizballah to be a most bloody, deceitful, and extremist terror organization. So far, they have killed about 300 Americans, more than 70 Frenchmen, and dozens of Israelis. If it were not for the vigilence of the Israeli Defense Force, which has repeatedly thwarted their terrorist incursions, many more innocent lives would have been lost.

3. For the past three years, Shiite factions have been holding three Israeli servicemen prisoner, while the fate of another three is still unknown. All of Israel's attempts to obtain their freedom through peaceful means have been rejected.

4. It is in this context that Israel apprehended Sheikh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd, who directed, planned, and actively participated in a number of terrorist operations, including the abduction of Col. Higgins.

5. Israel fully and wholeheartedly welcomes the call voiced by President Bush to bring about a reversal of the cycle of violence. It is in that spirit that Defense Minister Rabin publicly proposed yesterday to exchange all hostages of all nationalities for Shiites held by Israel. This offer stands.

6. We are engaged in a bitter struggle against terrorism. Innocent American and European lives have been lost through terrorist acts which were unrelated in any way to prior Israeli actions. We are deeply concerned about the lives of all of the hostages in Lebanon, and strongly urge their immediate release.

7. The democratic world must stand united in our common struggle against terrorism, for if we fail in this, we would grant the terrorists an easy victory and invite upon ourselves many more innocent victims.

Arens Answers Questions on Higgins, Other Issues

JN0108123089 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1004 GMT 1 Aug 89

[Interview with Foreign Minister Moshe Arens in a phone-in program carried live within "With the Midday Events" program; questions are phoned in by listeners from Israel, the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and Arab countries in Arabic; answers are in Hebrew followed by Arabic translation]

[Text] ['Afaf Khalil, from Beirut] In your opinion, do you consider kidnapping a citizen to an area outside his

country a legitimate act? Does Israel consider itself responsible for the execution of U.S. officer Colonel Higgins. Thank you.

[Arens] First of all, I would like to express the great concern felt by various Arab and Jewish circles in Israel regarding the harsh and serious conditions prevailing in Beirut. This tragedy has led to many victims and forced citizens to leave northern Lebanon for the south. Many of them have found refuge in southern Lebanon, because it is a most peaceful area.

We have indeed arrested Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd from the village of Jibshit in southern Lebanon. He is a member of Hizballah, a most criminal and brutal organization. Shaykh 'Ubayd was kidnapped because his organization is directly responsible for kidnapping Israelis and Col Higgins. We do not know anything about the fate of Col Higgins, but we do not believe or give credence to what they are saying or what is being said by the Hizballah organization. Full responsibility falls on this organization. If he was killed some time ago or a long time ago, the full responsibility falls on Hizballah.

[Muhammad Salim, from Kuwait] My question is directed to the entire government. Shamir sent his secretary to meet with Mr Yasir 'Arafat in France. We read about this in the newspapers. Shamir then announces on television that he is not ready to negotiate. I ask Mr Arens, why does he not meet with 'Arafat? Why do they not sit down together at the negotiations table and solve this problem. Let peace prevail in the Middle East, and let all people be happy. Let us visit our people and let our people visit us without restrictions. Since they are meeting secretly, why do they not meet openly? And since the United States and all parties are in favor of all this, let us sit down at the negotiations table and solve this problem.

[Arens] I am very pleased to address a resident from Kuwait. The situation in Kuwait is very good. We are waiting for the day when we can normalize our relations with Kuwait. There is no cause for hostility between Israel and Kuwait. Peaceful relations between Kuwait and Israel will be in the interest of both countries. Shamir did not send his secretary to talk to the representatives of the PLO in Paris. Israel's policy is not to hold negotiations with the organization. In our efforts to achieve peace, we want to hold negotiations with all the Arab states and the inhabitants of the areas. We in Israel aspire for peace more than anyone else. We fought five wars and paid a heavy price for peace with Egypt. We are extending the hand of peace to the Arab states and the inhabitants of the areas.

[Unidentified caller] How does Minister Arens view the resolution of the Palestine question, and what steps must the Israeli Government take to encourage the Palestinians and the Arab states to come to the negotiating table?

[Arens] The resolution of the Palestinian problem first calls for a definition of the problem. Some people, but not all people, in the Middle East believe that the Palestinians—that is, in other words, it is believed in the Middle East that there are Palestinians without a state. There are some people who view the Palestinians in this way. However, the majority of people in the Middle East does not share this view. Some people believe that there is a large number of Palestinians in Jordan. In fact, in 1970 the Palestinians tried to take power in Jordan. A section of the Palestinians are a part of the population of the State of Israel and others are inhabitants of the West Bank and Gaza. We are trying to reach an agreement with them.

I believe that when the negotiations between the citizens or the representatives of the citizens in the West Bank and Gaza and Israel begin, Israel will show some understanding toward the aspirations and rights expressed by the inhabitants of these areas. I hope that Israel will succeed also in obtaining the understanding of the inhabitants of the areas toward Israel's aspirations and rights. If this indeed takes place, then we would reach an agreement.

[Unidentified caller] If you were a Palestinian, would you have approved Shamir's peace initiative?

[Arens] I would have definitely approved the initiative, in as much as I understand the aspirations of the inhabitants of the areas. I believe that the prime minister's initiative is the only means to reach peace in the area. I believe that the Palestinian inhabitants share our belief that this is the only way.

[Unidentified Palestinian, from Saudi Arabia] I would like to address the following question to Mr Arens: Almost the entire world today recognizes the PLO as the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. Most nations have also recognized the Palestinian state. In Israel, however, the Israeli Government turns a blind eye to this reality. It also denies the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and the establishment of their independent state. How long can Israel continue this denial? If the Israeli Government knows and recognizes the existence of the Palestinian people, how can it deny their right to self-determination and the establishment of their state? If the Israeli Government today enjoys the power that enables it to pursue this policy, can it guarantee this power forever? We want a frank and clear answer from Mr Arens.

[Arens] I would like to say to our friend and listener from Saudi Arabia what I said to the listener from Kuwait, that we are hoping for the establishment of good relations between Israel and Saudi Arabia. There is no cause for the current hostility between Israel and Saudi and Arabia and for that country's economic and political

measures against Israel. Israel is a democratic state. We believe in the democratic process. We want the Palestinians to choose their representatives in democratic elections.

[(Rima 'Adnan)] Could the statement made by Muhammad Masarwah in Atlanta that the establishment of a Palestinian state is in Israel's interest have any effect on the extention of his service in the consulate?

[Arens] There is no connection. I know Muhammad Masarwah very well. He has represented Israel very honorably and competently in his post as Israel's consul in Atalanta. I visited him in his house and also in his village of (Kufr Kara'). We are studying the possibility of closing down the consulate in Atlanta only for economic reasons. Therefore, we cannot commit ourselves to renewing his service for another year. This year, we will open the foreign service to more Arabs and members of other minority communities in Israel. At first, they will undergo a special course organized by the Foreign Ministry for diplomats from the minority communities in Israel.

['Adil 'Amawi, from Dayr al-Balah] The Israeli Government claims that the PLO is a terrorist organization and refuses to hold negotiations with it. They also say that negotiations will be held only with representatives from the territories. My question is that if the impossible happens, if a local leadership was formed, and if this leadership demands the implementation of Resolution 242 and Resolution 338 based on Resolution 181, what will the Israeli Government's position be on the demand?

[Arens] I greet my friend from Dayr al-Balah. I reiterate the Israeli Government's usual position that Israel accepts Security Council Resolution 242. If there are differences in viewpoints on the formula of that resolution, there will be joint talks on the formula of the resolution between representatives of the State of Israel and elected representatives of the residents of the territories, Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip.

[Unidentified caller, from Jordan] Israel used to release reports on meetings between Arab and Israeli leaders. Now the PLO is releasing reports on meetings between PLO and Israeli leaders. Israel denies meetings with PLO members despite all the concessions made by the PLO. This indicates that Israel is not sincere in seeking peace.

[Arens] Israel is not holding any negotiations or contacts with the PLO. We maintain daily relations with residents in the territories. They also appear on the radio and television every day, and there is a chance for them to meet with the prime minister and Minister Arens himself. The evidence of our sincere intentions to solve the problem is that we are ready to hold elections in the territories to elect representatives of the residents there.

['Ali al-Duq, from Tyre residing in Beirut's southern suburbs] We Shiites have suffered much from the Palestinians. Nevertheless, they are coming back to take up positions in the south, especially in the Tyre area. What is Israel's position on this phenomenon? And why does Israel deport undesired Palestinians to Lebanon and not to Jordan or Egypt for example?

[Arens] Can the listener give those in the studio a report on the situation in Beirut? We know that many Palestinian citizens and residents live in the southern part of Lebanon. They are refugees who left Israel in 1948. The Arab countries, which have not paid attention or found a solution to the problem of those living in the camps, are responsible for the conditions and results of this situation. At the same time, Israel absorbed hundreds of thousands of Jews, who fled the Arab countries. Sometimes, we expel from Israel some terrorists. Deportation does not take place on a large-scale. The countries to which these terrorists are deported are few, and Lebanon is one of these countries.

['Abd Ya'qub Brima, from Amman] How does the Likud view the Palestinians, who left Palestine in 1967 and 1948? How does the Likud view the Palestinians, who left and who were deported by the Israeli authorities in 1970, 1977, and 1975?

[Arens] I greet the listener from Amman. I hope that peace will prevail between Israel and its eastern neighbor soon. Many Palestinians moved to Jordan during the 1948 and 1967 battles. The Likud believes that it is impossible for the clock to go back 40 years. Those who left the country during the Arab countries' aggression against Israel should remain where they are.

[Muhammad, from Al-Marj villages] Why does the Likud foil every attempt by the Israeli Labor Party to achieve peace? Does Arens think that only he, not Peres, can bring about peace?

[Arens] It seems from the question that the speaker is an Arab citizen in Israel. So, he knows very well the existing democracy and the multiparty system in the country. I will not ask him for which party he voted in the last election, but I want to repeat the program that the Likud presented in these elections. The Likud slogan was: Only the Likud can. It is the party that achieved peace with Egypt and that can achieve peace with the rest of the Arab countries.

[Sami Sa'id, from Upper Galilee] The Arab minority in Israel is represented in the Herut movement by only 0.5 percent of the movement's center members—a percentage reflecting those who do not serve in the Israel Defense Force. But this 0.5 percent represents the majority of the Arabs in Israel. We in the party are concerned with representing the Israeli Arabs in all state institutions.

[Arens] We make great efforts to have more representation of the Arabs of Israel. The more support the Arab citizens receive, the more representation they will have in the Likud institutions.

[Unidentified caller, from Bahrain] Can I contact my family in the West Bank? Is this direct contact a first step toward peace?

[Arens] Greetings to this kind lady telephoning from Bahrain. I think there will be no problem for her contacting her family in the West Bank. We believe that the first step toward peace is dialogue. This current dialogue through the Voice of Israel is also a move to bring peace a step closer.

[Nabil Ahmad Shukri, from Jerusalem] When the Israeli people chose the Likud, the entire world accepted, respected, and dealt with the decision of the Israeli people. Why does the Israeli Government intend to interfere in the Palestinian people's choice of their representatives, knowing that the whole Palestinian people chose the PLO as a sole legitimate representative?

[Arens] Since you are a resident of Jerusalem, you have been a witness over the past 20 years to the Israeli democracy, democratic trends, and elections in Jerusalem. I hope that you appreciate and view with respect the possibility of holding elections to elect representatives of the Arab citizens in the territories. The Israeli Government will respect the decision of voters as reflected in the results of the elections in the territories.

[Unidentified caller, from Amman] My question is: Why the elections at a time when you know well that the majority of the Palestinian people accept no alternative to the PLO? Why do you not launch negotiations immediately if you really seek to achieve peace?

[Arens] I would like our friend from Amman to understand that elections will also be held in Jordan, and that the same question might be posed there, too. Why hold elections in Jordan? We in Israel were happy when we heard that elections will be held in Jordan. I hope that all Jordanian citizens will be gladdened and pleased when they hear that all residents of the territories will participate in the elections designed to allow them to elect their representatives. They will be able to do this.

[Unidentified caller, from Jordan] My question is in two parts. Those responsible for the decisionmaking process in Israel say that they will not allow the establishment of a Palestinian state, a third state between Jordan and Israel. If the answer is in the affirmative, do the decisionmakers believe that the establishment of a Palestinian state in Jordan will remove dangers targeting Israel, particularly if this state were to be led by the PLO? The other question is: As for the Israeli decision to establish such a state, will such a state be kept away from involvement with the 1 million Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and the half million in Israel? Does not this pose a future danger? Which would be preferable: the establishment of such a state or the establishment of a state on the West Bank and Gaza Strip?

[Arens] I am pleased that we have had the chance to talk to our neighbors in Jordan. I would like to affirm that we in Israel neither seek nor aspire to topple the Jordanian regime. We do not believe that the establishment of an additional state on the West Bank and Gaza Strip would help maintain security and stability in the region. The establishment of such a state will not bring welfare and security to the residents of the region.

[Abu-'Ammar Ahmad, from Beersheba] Why does the Israeli Government reject the peace plan launched by the PLO which was welcomed and well-received by most world states?

[Arens] I am answering a question posed by an Israeli citizen and saying that the interests of the State of Israel are, of course, important to this citizen. I know that peace with the Arab states and that an agreement with the residents of the territories must be realized through Israel and not through the world states. We acquired an experience from the peace process with Egypt stating that a first step must be made to achieve peace. I am not referring to this or that program. Peace is achievable through negotiations with the Arab states which identify themselves as states in a state of hostility with the State of Israel. The issue also concerns Israel and the residents of the territories. This is the crux of peace as spelled out by the peace plan proposed by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir.

[Rafiq Sharruf, from 'Isfiya] What about the fate of Samir As'ad? This morning, I heard in the newscasts that the Jewish shbuyim [preceding word in Hebrew] are still alive. What about the fate of Samir As'ad? Is he still alive or not?

[Arens] I know very well the story of the soldier Samir As'ad. I personally called on his family. Samir As'ad was kidnapped by a terrorist group belonging to the organizations in Lebanon. As a matter of fact, we do not know anything about his fate. After an operation carried out by the Israel Defense Force in Lebanon, the party which kidnapped him announced that he was killed in this operation. We are quite sure that he was not at the site of the operation. Hence, the issue pertains once again to the same type of lies recently practised by Hizballah. We are sparing no effort to learn his fate and return him home, to Israel. This is the same thing that we do for each Israel soldier when captured.

[Unidentified caller, from Jordan] Will reconciliation between the Palestinians and the Israelis take place this year? Thank you.

[Arens] I wish and really want my answer to be positive. My answer could be partially positive, because peace prevails among a part of the citizens; namely the residents of the State of Israel and the Jewish citizens of Israel. I hope the day when peaceful relations prevail among Israel's citizens and the citizens of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, between Israel and Jordan, and Israel and the rest of the Arab countries, is not far off.

[Albert Yunis, from Beirut] Concerning the announcement yesterday of Col Higgins' death and the threat this morning to kill Terry Waite, I would like to ask Minister Arens whether they insist on not releasing Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd to stop bloodshed at present?

[Arens] What is the present situation in Beirut now?

[Albert Yunis] I am phoning in from eastern Beirut. We have some news reports about western Beirut. There are rumors saying that public opinion in western Beirut today is not opposed to the abduction operation that took place.

[Moderator, interrupting] No. The minister is asking about the security situation in Beirut.

[Albert Yunis] Concerning the security situation, there is shelling as usual. As you know, for the past 3 or 4 nights, Syrian shelling has been continuous. There is a large number of dead and wounded. As for the situation concerning the operation—the question I was asking, the situation today concerning western Beirut—we heard reports that the people there are not opposed to the operation of the shaykh's abduction. A group of them in fact support the operation considering the terrorist acts that were taking place. However, here in eastern Beirut everybody supports the operation and hopes it ends with an exchange of prisoners between Hizballah and Israel and the other prisoners from other countries. They hope that this operation will put an end to abductions in the region in the future. This is the situation today concerning this operation. As for the security operation, there is bombing—Syrian shelling.

[Moderator] Thank you very much. Now here is the answer to your question.

[Arens] I wish to express the support and sympathy of all the people in Israel with Beirut's residents. We are concerned about their security. We hope the unjustifiable mass killing stops. Regarding hostages like Terry Waite and 15 or 16 others, the kidnappers have already announced that they killed some of them. We do not know if Terry Waite is still alive or has been killed by them. But we definitely know that Shaykh 'Ubayd carried out terrorist acts and is directly responsible for the kidnapping of Col Higgins. If Col Higgins has indeed been killed, then Shaykh 'Ubayd is responsible. If we release this criminal then we will be encouraging more terrorist acts. We have announced our readiness for a general exchange of prisoners including the release of Hizballah and Amal detainees. In return, all hostages, whether Israeli or other nationals, would be released.

['Abd-al-Sattar al-Tawilah, from Cairo] Does the foreign minister not expect that the strategic alliance between the United States and Israel is destined to weaken or become lax with the continuing growth of the policy of peaceful coexistence and the disappearence of the spectre of the third world war which decreases the importance of Israel as a U.S. ally?

[Arens] First and foremost, I wish to address my words to the Egyptian people and the editors of ROSE AL-YUSUF magazine. I do not expect or believe that the strategic agreement between the United States and Israel will end soon. I also believe that the good relations between Egypt and the United States will not end. If peace prevails between all nations of the world in all parts of the world, then things will be different. We pray together with you for this to be realized and the day when peace will prevail to come. However, I fear that we have to wait some time for that day to come.

[Jiryis Shaumar, from Nazareth] What are the government's steps to combat racism by the Jewish side as there is not much racism by the Arab side?

[Arens] As an Israeli citizen, listener Jurays, you know that we work continuously and intensively against racism in Israel. Although there is a political party in Israel that raised the flag of racism, we made a law in the Knesset banning such a party from participating in the elections. Rabbi Kahane's party is not represented in the present 12th Knesset. I hope that all Arab countries will follow suit in combatting racism.

[Fu'ad Sulayman] Is there any intitiative on the part of Israel to swap the [Israeli] prisoners with 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd?

[Arens] The defense minister yesterday announced our readiness to swap all prisoners with the Hizballah Party—in exchange for all prisoners held by the Hizballah Party.

[Sulayman Jaradat, from Hebron] Will the meetings between Palestinian and Israeli personalities lead to holding elections in the territories? Thank you.

[Arens] I hope that meetings between ministers in the Israeli Government and personalities from the West Bank and Gaza will result in holding the elections within the framework of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's initiative. We want to convince the territories' citizens that these elections are in their interest as well as the interest of the people in the region.

[Lawyer 'Ali al-Tawil, from Gaza] Why does Israel reject the international conference as a basis for resolving the Middle East problem?

[Arens] Our conviction is that the path to achieve peace is direct negotiations among the parties. This was the case when we held direct talks with Egypt to achieve peace. These talks resulted in achieving a real peace. I am convinced that this is the way to achieve peace with the rest of the Arab countries. Incorporating countries that geographically are far away from the region will not add anything but might distort the peace process and introduce some obstacles to the peace process. There are 20 Arab countries; there are Arab countries whose borders are far away from Israel. The only Arab country that has peaceful relations with Israel is Egypt. And Egypt has a common border with Israel.

[Yasir Jadallah, from Jordan] When 'Arafat declared his peace initiative, he presented an intiative of good intention—the agreement on America's conditions for dialogue. What is Shamir's intiative of good intention, vis-a-vis the intidfadah for example, so that the Arabs will agree on his peace plan? This is my question. And there is a personal matter I would like to raise after listening to the answer.

[Moderator] Let us hear the minister's answer. It is too early to speak about the personal matter. Let us together hear the answer.

[Arens] I believe that an Arab agreement on Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's initiative is not considered a concession. It is a step that will achieve the interests of the territories' residents. This is because it is in the interest of the territories' residents, not Israel, to hold elections in the territories so as to elect representatives of those residents.

[Jadallah] The personal matter is that my sister from 'Anabta obtained a permit for family reunification 2 years ago. And until now, she has not been given an identity card nor is she allowed to leave [the West Bank]. Last month, she was sent back from the bridge. Would you like me to give you her name.

[Moderator] Minister Moshe Arens says that he is sorry because he does not have all the details with regard to the subject presented by the listener from Jordan. If he is given all details he will be ready to contribute to resolving this issue.

[Jadallah] The name is Maha 'Umar 'Ali Jadallah from 'Anabta near Tulkarm. She obtained a family reunification with reference to the identity card of her husband 'Awni Rafiq 'Ali Jadallah.

[Moderator] We have recorded this here. God willing, this problem will be solved.

[Karimah Kirol, journalist from Cairo AL-AKHBAR] Mr Arens has recently stated that Israel made a big mistake when it failed to talk with Palestinian residents in the occupied territories. Is it now time for Israel to rectify this mistake and talk with the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinians, the PLO? I personally hope that such a step will be made by minister Arens, especially as he has good contacts with Palestinian figures in the territories.

[Arens] I congratulate you for your excellent command of Hebrew. True, I said that Israel made a mistake when it failed to hold talks with the residents of the territories over the past 20 years. Over this period, we have looked at King Husayn and the Jordanian Government as the representatives of the Palestinians. Until 1967, Judaea and Samaria had been parts of Jordan, and the West Bank residents, to date, are Jordanian citizens. Some in Israel had long waited for a telephone call from King Husayn. A year ago, when King Husayn announced that he was not ready to speak on behalf of the territories' residents, it was clear that we had to look for representatives of the residents to talk to. In the elections proposed by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, the inhabitants will elect their representatives.

[Unidentified caller, from Jordan] Hello.

[Moderator] Hello. Do you want to give your name?

[Caller] No, I do not. I want to ask Mr Arens whether he considers the intifadah an act of resistance by a people whose land is occupied or an act of terrorism? If he considers it an act of terrorism, why is Shamir not considered a terrorist, as he was involved in acts before the establishment of the State of Israel similar to the current acts by Palestinians?

[Arens] Concerning the acts of violence we have been facing for about 20 months, we, the Israelis, are surprised by these incidents. Residents of the territories, at last, are able to present their demands and aspirations through the mass media and the representatives of the Israeli Government. There is no need for threatening people's lives whether they be Arabs or Jews. As it is known, the number of casualties among the Arabs in these incidents is much larger than that among the Jews. Almost every day an Arab citizen is killed in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza by terrorist organizations. I believe that no one in Jordan agrees with these acts.

[Lebanese caller, from Jordan] It is noted that some of the Israeli operations in Lebanon target areas near Syrian positions in Lebanon. Syria does nothing and shows no reaction toward these operations. This means full coordination exists between Israel and Syria. If this is true, then why should not there be a settlement between Israel and Syria like that between Israel and Egypt? Israel knows that the current situation in Lebanon will in the long run harm Israel's interests; it is not in the interests of Israel that terrorism escalates in Lebanon.

[Arens] I think there is no reason for lack of peace between Israel and Syria. We are ready for direct negotiations with the Syrians at all times and in all places. The Syrians, however, do not seem to be concerned, so far, about such negotiations to bring about peace.

[Unidentified caller, from Abu Dhabi] The world aspires to peace, and every one is working to achieve it. We in the Middle East are part of this world. Moreover, we reside in a region that needs peace. Every one in the Middle East and the West says that were it not for Israel's intransigence, peace would have been achieved easily, especially after we have tried more than one war. It is certain that the only way to solve the Middle East problem is the way of peace. Why is there intransigence while peace calls us? When, in Arens' view, will this region enjoy peace?

[Arens] I share with you your aspirations for peace in the region. We wonder why do the Arab countries, which are in a state of war with Israel like Abu Dhabi, not come to the negotiating table? We have been stretching our hand toward peace since the State of Israel was established. But we waged five wars to defend ourselves. We have learned that making peace in the Middle East is a very difficult mission. We in Israel do not understand why people are killing one another in Lebanon. If there is a positive response to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's initiative, we will take a large step toward peace.

[Unidentified caller, from the West Bank] If the Shiite organizations threaten to kill the Israeli hostages and carry out their threats, will Israel continue to adhere to its opinion?

[Arens] We are standing before the threats of this movement, which calls itself the Hizballah movement. We do not give any credence to such a movement because we do not know who is alive and who is dead. As I said a short while ago and as the defense minister said yesterday, we are ready to exchange hostages according to certain conditions.

[Moderator] What is your impression of this conversation?

[Arens] I thank the director of the radio station, the director of the Voice of Israel in the Arabic language, and all the other employees. I also thank all those who posed questions from Israel and the Arab countries and gave me the right to answer these questions.

Official Comments on Hostage Exchange Plan

LD0208113889 Paris Domestic Service in French 0620 GMT 2 Aug 89

[Telepone interview by Paris Radio correspondent Jean-Michel Blier with Avi Pazner, adviser to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, in Jerusalem—live]

[Excerpts] [Blier] Good day, Mr Avi Pazner, you are Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's closest adviser. Thank you for speaking to us this morning live from Jerusalem. Last night the Revolutionary Justice Organisation, the RJO, extended by 48 hours—nonrenewable—its ultimatum for the execution of American Joseph Cicippio. Mr Pazner, how are you in Israel going to use this respite?

[Pazner] Good day and thank you for having me on France Inter [Paris Domestic Service]. In Israel we do not negotiate with a stopwatch in our hands and we do not negotiate under pressure. As we have said, we are ready to exchange all the Shiites, including Shaykh 'Ubayd, for the Israeli prisoners and Western hostages in Lebanon. We are currently in contact with several international representatives in order to try to arrange an exchange of prisoners as quickly as possible, if it is possible. But I have to tell you that we are doing this patiently, because we know that we are faced with a dangerous extremist organization, and we are used to threats of execution. As I told you, we are not doing this with a stopwatch in our hands. [passage omitted]

[Bleir] Do you not have the feeling of being at an impasse insofar as the Muslim fundamentalists consider your exchange proposal ridiculous and derisory?

[Pazner] No, we are not at an impasse. Firstly, we do not believe that this is their final reply; and that is why we have brought Shaykh 'Ubayd to Israel—because up to now they have completely ignored all our demands for exchanging prisoners for our soldiers in Lebanon. This is why we decided to bring to Israel one of the organizers, one of the heads of this Hizballah terrorist network, a man who has personally taken part in acts of terror against Israelis, who has also carried out murders, who has given orders to murder innocent people; a man who has taken part and personally planned the kidnapping of Colonel Higgins. This was a way for us to draw the Hizballah's attention to the fact that for us the problem of Israeli prisoners in Lebanon is an important problem and that we are prepared to effect an exchange. I think that we have succeeded this time in making them understand the importance which we attach to this. We have brought Shaykh 'Ubayd to Israel. [passage omitted]

[Bleir] What will you do in 48 hours if unfortunately the RJO carries out this threat?

[Pazner] I do not want to reveal the details of our plans. I just want you to know and to appreciate that we have contacts in good faith with several international representatives and we are trying to arrange this exchange of prisoners, all the prisoners, for humanitarian reasons; and I believe that the Hizballah now understand our determination not to leave our soldiers—and also the Western hostages—literally rot away in Lebanon for years and years. We want an exchange of prisoners and we are ready to effect it immediately. [passage omitted]

[Bleir] Mr Avi Pazner, there are your hostages in Lebanon, but there are also the Western hostages—American hostages, British hostages. Before using force, should you not have sought assurance about the solidarity of the Western countries? Should you not have informed the Americans, for example?

[Pazner] [Word indistinct] in Lebanon for many years. You know very well that if we had asked the Western countries for their advice before the operation they would have replied in the negative, not because they thought it was a bad idea, but on the contrary because they were frightened that it would be interpreted as collusion between them and Israel. We operated in such a way that it is an Israeli operation, we take responsibility for it, and we are ready to place our good services and our humanitarian services at the disposal of our Western friends to get their hostages freed.

[Bleir] Are you disappointed over the U.S. attitude?

[Pazner] No, not at all. I would say that on the whole the American attitude is positive. It is true that there have been a few voices—like Senator Dole for example, who moreover is the only one to have criticized Israel, as more than 20 senators have given very firm support to our positions. The Bush Administration has adopted a prudent and, I would say, positive attitude and the major U.S. press organs are favorable to our operation. That is very important for us, because we think that we are, together with the Americans and the other Western countries, on the same front and we should hold each other's hand—we should stick together.

[Bleir] Mr Avi Pazner, thank you.

'Official Spokesman' Condemns Higgins' Execution

JN0108155489 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1450 GMT 1 Aug 89

[Text] Amman, 1 Aug (PETRA)—An official Jordanian spokesman today announced Jordan's condemnation of the execution of U.S. officer William Higgins, who was working with the UN peace-keeping forces in southern Lebanon, as a regrettable action that lacks mercy, justice, and justification.

He also expressed Jordan's condemnation of all actions of violence, abduction, and killing regardless of their goal and source, especially the terrorist operations which Israel carried out in southern Lebanon and which constitutes a flagrant violation of Lebanon's sovereignty and territory.

The spokesman also affirmed that such actions will inevitably lead to further acts of violence and mutual revenge—a fact which will further complicate the situation and which can be explained as part of attempts to distract attention from the current situation in the occupied Arab territories and to hamper serious efforts to achieve peace and stability in the region.

U.S. Blamed for Abduction, Hostage Killing

JN0208101489 Amman AKHBAR AL-USBU' in Arabic 2 Aug 89 p 13

[Unsigned "Spotlights" column: "Israeli Terrorism and Washington's Responsibility"]

[Text] The serious complications that followed the execution of U.S. hostage William Higgins by the Oppressed on Earth Organization in Lebanon would not have happened had Israel not kidnapped Hizballah leader Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd and had it not refused to release him, despite world condemnation of its terrorist act.

Although we are aware of the circumstances surrounding the U.S. officials, since the victim is a U.S. citizen and since other Western hostages might be executed in Lebanon primary responsibility falls on Israel which practiced state terrorism by kidnapping the Shiite leader and demanding exchanging him with three Israeli soldiers held by the Lebanese Shiite organizations.

President Bush's administration also bears a large degree of responsibility because its denunciation of the abduction of the Shiite leader was merely an attempt to throw dust in the eyes and was not coupled with any tangible measure to exert sufficient pressure on Israel to force it to release the Shiite leader on the one hand and to stop its attacks on the Lebanese villages under the pretext of taking revenge on the Palestinian and Lebanese resistance on the other.

What happened should be a hard lesson for the United States and a warning against continuing its political protection of Israel's crimes and terrorist practices, not only in Lebanon but also in the entire Middle East region.

It is hoped that the United States will not be dragged into emotional reactions and attempts to cover up Israel's hostile practices, that it will exercise maximum self-restraint, and hasten to pressure Israel into releasing Shaykh 'Ubayd and thus prevent further extremism and killing of other hostages who have no guilt other than their countries' involvement in the vicious plot against the Arab region in general and the Palestinian people in particular.

King Husayn Returns From Jeddah, Cables Thanks

JN0108184489 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 1 Aug 89

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn returned home this evening following a brief working visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia during which he met with his brother King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, and discussed with him the developments in the Arab and international arenas as well as the strong fraternal ties between the two fraternal states.

A round of talks was held this morning under the chairmanship of the two Arab leaders, His Majesty King Husayn and King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques. The talks were attended on the Jordanian side by Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Ibn-Shakir; Royal Hashemite Court Chief Dhuqan al-Hindawi; 'Adnan Abu-'Awdah, political adviser to his majesty the king; Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; and the Jordanian ambassador to Saudi Arabia.

The Saudi side to the talks included His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and inspector general; His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister; Hisham Nazir, minister of petroleum and mineral resources; Dr 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Khuwaytir, minister of education and acting minister of higher education; and the Saudi ambassador to Jordan.

The two leaders also held a closed session of talks at noon today.

His majesty the king was welcomed at the airport by His Royal Highness Prince Muhammad, personal envoy of his majesty the king; His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan; a number of members of the Hashemite family; and senior state, civil, and military officials.

His Majesty King Husayn sent the following cable to his brother the custodian of the two holy mosques. The text of this cable follows:

Brother King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy moques, may God protect and keep you.

While leaving your dear country, it pleases me to send to you and to the fraternal Saudi people, in my name and on behalf of my delegation, my most heartfelt thanks and my deepest appreciation for the hospitality and care accorded to us by you and your brothers, gratefully remembering your continued support for the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan which forms with its sister, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, one country and one family.

Fortunately, our visit to your country took place while we are on the verge of beginning a new Hegira year. I would like to extend to you, to your country, and to your people on the advent of this year my most sincere and heartfelt congratulations, hoping that it will be a year of well-being, solidarity, dignity, and pride for our Arab nation and our Islamic world.

May God grant you success in all that brings well-being to your people and nation. And may He grant you and your brothers as well as the fraternal Saudi people health, happiness, and progress.

Thanks again for your support for Jordan. May God dispel all of your worries and may He elevate you to heights of dignity and pride! May God answer our prayers.

[Signed] Your Brother Al-Husayn Ibn-Talal

At the request of King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy moques, Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Ibn-Shakir and Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan al-Qasim were asked to remain in Jeddah to continue their talks with the brothers in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Al-Masri To Lead Delegation to USSR 'Shortly'

Military Debts To Be Discussed

JN3107115089 Paris AL-MUHARRIR in Arabic 29 Jul 89 p 3

[Excerpts] AL-MUHARRIR has learned from most reliable sources that a Jordanian delegation led by Deputy Prime Minister Tahir al-Masri will shortly leave for Moscow to discuss rescheduling Jordanian debts to the Soviet Union.

These sources revealed to AL-MUHARRIR that these debts, which amount to about $200 million, are basically low-interest military debts incurred by Jordan's purchase of air defense systems after the United States had refused to supply Jordan with similar ones as a result of the Zionist lobby's pressure on the U.S. Administration. Jordan's efforts to reschedule its Soviet debts are part of an overall economic revision and follows the agreement signed with the IMF and Paris Club to reschedule its debts to the West for a period of 6-11 years, including a grace period of 5-6 years. [passage omitted]

AL-MUHARRIR has learned that the United Arab Emirates has recently paid Jordan $30 million in aid, but Saudi Arabia has not yet extended any aid to Jordan although the servant of the two holy mosques promised to pay Jordan a large sum of money 3 months ago. [passage omitted]

Trade, Cooperation on Agenda

JN0108083289 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 11 Aug 89 pp 1, 15

[Text] Amman—Tahir al-Masri, deputy prime minister and minister of state for economic affairs, will leave Amman next week for the Soviet Union.

During his visit, Al-Masri will confer with Soviet officials on rescheduling Jordan's debts to the Soviet Union.

The deputy prime minister and foreign minister will also head the Jordanian side in meetings of the Jordanian-Soviet Joint Committee.

The committee will discuss a number of topics, including developing and expanding economic and technical cooperation, and the means of increasing trade between Jordan and the Soviet Union.

Informed sources told AL-SHA'B that during his visit, Al-Masri will meet with a number of Soviet officials and confer with them on the latest developments in the international arena, particularly those related to the Palestine question, Israeli intransigence, and the repressive methods used by the occupation authorities against Palestinian citizens in the West Bank and Gaza.

On this visit, which will last several days, Al-Masri will be accompanied by a delegation from the Ministry of Industry and Trade.

Crown Prince on Future Talks on Territories

JN3107074589 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 04530 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Text] Jordan has expressed its desire to participate in future negotiations on a permanent settlement in the territories. Our correspondent in Washington reports that these remarks were included in messages addressed by Jordanian Crown Prince Hasan to a number of political figures in the United States, including Lee Hamilton, chairman of the U.S. House of Representatives subcommittee for Middle East affairs.

Egyptian, YAR Foreign Ministers Depart 21 Jul

JN2107164489 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 21 Jul 89

[Excerpt] Egyptian and Yemen Arab Republic [YAR] Foreign Ministers Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid and Dr 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani have left Amman following a 3-day visit to Jordan. They took part in meetings of the foreign ministers of the Arab Cooperation Council which concluded last night. [passage omitted]

Spokesman Condemns Raid on YAR Airline Office

JN2907113689 Amman Domestic Servioce in English 1100 GMT 29 Jul 89

[Text] Jordan has denounced the terrorist attack against the North Yemeni airline office in Istanbul. A Foreign Ministry spokesman has condemned those behind this criminal act. The spokesman announced Jordan's solidarity with the North Yemen Republic against any aggressive or provocative act.

Cabinet Approves Agreements With Syria

JN3007121089 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 30 Jul 89 p 3

[Text] Amman (PETRA)—The Cabinet Saturday approved the minutes of the meeting of the Higher Jordanian-Syrian Joint Committee held in Damascus July 9-10, and the minutes of the sub-committee that met also in Damascus July 4-5.

According to these minutes, Jordan and Syria agreed to increase the volume of trade between the two countries to $200 million. The two countries also agreed to exchange goods worth $65 million for each in 1989 and to establish trade centres authorised to sell goods worth $10 million each.

Prime Minister Sharif Zayd Ibn-Shakir chaired the cabinet session.

King Speaks on Economy, Elections, Arab Issues

JN3007204889 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 30 Jul 89

[Interview with King Husayn carried within the weekly "Topical Affairs Program" by Muhammad Amin, director of Jordan Television; and Rakan al-Majali, 'Abd al-Salam al-Tarawinah, and Sultan Hattab, editors in chief of Jordanian Arabic newspapers, in Amman on 30 July—recorded]

[Text] [Amin] Welcome Your Majesty, and welcome back. The members of the entire Jordanian family beseech God to grant you good health and happiness. Welcome to you.

[Husayn] God bless you and all the kinfolk and brothers in our homeland, Jordan. In fact, I cannot find words to express my thanks to everyone for showing interest in me and my health. However, God be praised, because all the medical examinations were satisfactory and completely reassuring. God be praised. God enabled me to return to continue the march in service and construction. I thank and appreciate everyone.

[Amin] God bless Your Majesty. This is good news that makes everyone happy. Your Majesty, the royal letter of designation indicated that the government is a transitional one. Your Majestry also explained on more than one occasion that this concept could not be viewed in terms of time; rather it is a concept of change from one situation to another, better situation. How does Your Majesty view the better situation?

[Husayn] The better situation is the one that we wish for our country, our march, and our one great Jordanian family. It is a move from our past situation, from which we have suffered as a result of circumstances that were beyond our control, to another, better situation and other, better organs in which we have complete confidence. It is a move toward action to deal with the circumstances that we faced in the recent past.

In fact, the most important issues on which we are concentrating now are our financial and economic situation, the issue of the dinar and its stability, and the government organs, which should make sacrifices. Everyone should shoulder his responsibilities and serve the people.

In fact, we will move from a time in which we were deprived of exercising parliamentary life for long years as a result of circumstrances beyond our conrol to a situation in which the sons of the Jordanian family will exercise this right to elect—and be elected to—the new parliament as soon as possible. It will be a new experience after long years of deprivation. We hope that we will experience it in the near future to allow the youths and a great number of the sons of this country to exercise this right for the first time. I am completely confident that the results will be positive and will mean participation in assuming responsibility and paving the way to achieving our goals.

In fact, there is also the idea of crystallizing the national charter. We hope that we can crystallize it in the near future with the help and participation of the sons of this country and make it a framework for the future march through respecting and safeguarding the Constitution, which will be based on what we have inherited from the Arab generations, including concepts and values serving the Arabs in the entire Arab nation and defending their rights and those of the coming generations.

[Amin] Thank you very much.

[Al-Majali] Your Majesty, as is very well known, the subject of elections is everybody's concern. This is an experience that comes 22 years after the citizens last practiced their right to vote. There is certainly a gap here, and it is added to the current political vacuum in the country. This poses many questions concerning the election process. My question is how can the parliament help formulate political life once again in Jordan?

[Husayn] I think that the experience is ahead of us, and I hope the outcome will be in line with my wishes. Everybody here, undoubtedly, has the right to contribute to and join the process, whether through voting or running for Parliament. If we go back in the past, we find that many changes have taken place since the Jordanian people exercised their right to elections—for instance, the participation of women and the age of voters. The issue concerns all the Jordanian Arabs in this Arab land. I have great hopes that the people in this country—in whose awareness, faithfulness, sincere affiliation to this nation, and realization of their responsibility in confronting challenges and dangers I have absolute confidence—will help in the success of the elections process. I hope that the outcome, consequently, will be a Parliament that reflects the views and aspirations of the various sectors of society and that the people, through Parliament, will exercise their right of cooperation with the executive authority to build the future as we wish and desire.

[Al-Tarawinah] Your Majesty, you talked about the project of the national charter as a political framework. We would like Your Majesty to explain the steps to achieve this project.

[Husayn] Sir, as regards the charter, we will soon invite groups of people representing the various schools of thought and trends in our country, within the framework of the family to which we all belong, to discuss the formulation of this charter.

As regards the local dimension, the Jordanian experience is a rich and pioneering one, and the charter must, in fact, organize the work, efforts, inclinations, and convictions of all of us in all walks of life regarding the direction we should take. It should, consequently, be the framework that governs the aim of our march.

On the pan-Arab dimension, as I said, this country itself sprang from the thoughts, inclinations, and ambitions of the Arabs. It remained faithful and eager to continue the path of our ancestors and perform its duty and role toward the coming generations as well. By virtue of its position, responsibility, and practices so far, Jordan's duty calls upon it to achieve integration and cooperation and defend the Arab rights, presence, and dignity. It has a great asset on which it can build concerning the future and the charter. The charter is the image that we hope will be bright and will govern everybody within a serious and targeted march toward achieving our goals and those of the generaions to come. [passage omitted]

[Hattab] Your Majesty has given the economic issue all of his attention because it is the most important issue. The economic reform course has begun, as well as the stages of national readjustment. The government has taken many measures in this respect. To what extent can this economic state of affairs we are experiencing confront the momentous outside pressures, and the current Arab state of affairs we are now experiencing?

[Husayn] Outside pressures are real, and the challenges are very serious. However, I am confident that this country will get the assistance and support of its brothers in the Arab homeland. Before all this, the citizen will demonstrate a great extent of maturity in view of the critical circumstances. We are working to achieve the following: To have the citizen in this country have complete confidence in his leadership, and to attain some kind of justice with the burden every one of us should assume. Therefore, there is a review of the taxation system and of all walks of life whereas we can pursue our course so that our country will be a model for others and will continue to perform its role in defending its Arab nation and this nation's rights, particularly with respect to the Palestinian cause.

It goes without saying that our state of affairs is directly linked to this cause, which is the primary and most important cause at present. We thank God that the Iraq-Iran war has stopped. We hope that efforts will continue until the problem ends on bases that sound acceptable, and promising with respect to the future. Iraq has played its great role in defending the Arab homeland's eastern gate and defended the Arab system and the Arab individual throughout the vast homeland.

Therefore, once again there remains the old threat and the one that we have always experienced. There is the intifadah [uprising] in the occupied territories. There is also the tribulation of the kinfolk and the brothers there and their steadfastness against the occupation for long years. There is also their clinging to their land and their rights. Naturally, Israel tries to extricate itself from this dilemma in which it finds itself vis-a-vis the world. The world has adopted large strides in settling problems. The Soviets and the Americans met and began to cooperate between themselves to focus their attention on hot issues that threaten peace in any part of the world and consequently threaten peace worldwide. One of the most serious issues that the world must inevitably tackle is the issue here. Israel possesses nuclear weapons. There are wholesale destructive weapons in this part of the world. There is also the importance of the region in which we live and its importance to the world. There is also an issue of rights, which should be regained by their owners on their national soil.

I believe that our tribulation is part of the picture and Israel's attempts to extricate itself from its dilemma, which has become an established fact in view of the

steadfastness of our relatives and brothers in the occupied territories through their intifadah [uprising], and their insistence on pursuing it until it achieves its objectives—restoring their right to their national soil.

This is part of the problem. Israel's attempts concerning us continue, the attempts by Israel and the extremist Israeli right wing, which says that the issue is one of people, which should be solved elsewhere, and not an issue of a people who are asking for their rights on their national soil.

Our tribulation is part of all this. I believe that our Arab brothers are well aware of this. With respect to our stands, I believe that they have been sound stands with respect to our efforts in achieving accord and agreement, supporting our brothers in Iraq, restoring the Arab family to its natural position—Egypt now occupies its normal position within this family—and with respect to our action, which responded to the Palestinian and Arab desire to have the Palestinian side directly assume the responsibility toward the Palestinians' present and future, and to support and assist it. That is why we made our disengagement decision. In this, we responded to the Palestinian desire as we did the first time when unity was established [between the West and East Banks]. We also responded to our Arab brothers' desire.

We stand along the longest confrontation line, not to mention that the dangers do not threaten us alone but also the entire homeland. From this premise comes this tribulation and these responsibilities and the need to build and develop our Armed Forces. At one time, it was imposed on us not to obtain weapons from the United States unless we compromised our position toward Israel. We sought to obtain these weapons from other sources. This actually took place, whether from the Eastern bloc, or from Western Europe. The attempts at besiegement continue, and the pressures also continue. However, we do not submit to them. We have never submitted to them, and we will not submit to them. Therefore, I am fully confident that we will overcome all this, God willing.

As I have mentioned, our attention is focused on the issue of the dinar and on entrenching it against all the overt and known attempts. Israel is deeply involved in all this. [passage omitted]

God willing, we will begin a new stage that will make us stand on our feet and be self-dependent. There is the agreement with the World Bank and the IMF. Thanks be to God, it seems that this country's credibility worldwide is great, and the results we have heard of the recent meetings of the Paris Club are encouraging. Everybody is interested in the state of affairs in Jordan and in supporting and assisting it until it overcomes this stage. There is maturity in Jordan. There is also the Arab state of affairs which now responds to us more than at any time before. I believe that our brothers are aware of our stands and value them; stands which have always been in their service and in defense of their causes and their rights. There is also the relationship that I now view as exemplary and based on solid grounds of trust, which exist between Jordan and its brothers and relatives the sons of Palestine and the PLO, the Palestinian people's representative and the leader of their march.

Thanks be to God, the picture is good and encouraging in all sense of the word.

[Amin] Thank you, Your Majesty. In the reply to the last question, you touched on two major points that substantially bear on the Palestinian question: The first on the disengagement, which took place approximately 1 year ago, and the intifadah [uprising], which is approximately 20 months old now. What is Your Majesty's assessment of the course the Palestinian question is taking and its developments over the past year?

[Husayn] Once again I would like to note that the world is now going through an unprecedented experience. It seems to me that there is a conviction that all problems threatening regional peace and security and by extenstion world peace and security must be addressed. We have seen successful attempts to tackle many issues. Our problem here has yet to receive such attention. I believe it will recieve the interntional attention it deserves.

I believe that our decision to disengage, which met with Palestinian and Arab wishes, was timely and correct. It put the Arab Palestinian right to the national Palestinian soil on center stage. It led the PLO and the Palestine National Council to assume their responsibilities in a direct fashion. Our relations [with the PLO] are now excellent. The PLO has been very successful in bringing the Palestinian question to the fore and defending Palestinian rights as never before.

Regarding the intifadah, undoubtedly, it is an expression of the courage, Arab character, and adherence to rights and land of this good people, who are offering martyrs, making sacrifices, and enduring. These people are daily making the world keep this cause on their minds and give it the attention it merits. Things have, therefore, developed positively.

Regarding Israel, or the extreme right wing in Israel, to my mind they are being embarrassed; they are in a tight spot and looking for a way out. But I am optimistic as to the consequences.

[Al-Tarawinah] Your Majesty, this year has witnessed the birth of the edifice of a unity as a result of God's will, your efforts and struggle, and the efforts of your brothers, the Arab leaders. The entire Arab world takes pride in this. This is also viewed as a nucleus for a great Arab unity. How does Your Majesty view the future of this edifice, in which we take pride?

[Husayn] Sir, I am confident that we will achieve much. I believe that the start is reassuring and very satisfactory. There is complete understanding, and we experience a real cooperation in the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC]. The confidence is absolute. There are 80 million Arabs facing challenges and dangers. Each of these countries has a certain experience, and there is every determination to achieve integrity. Wherever we look, we find many chances for action. We are still at the beginning of the road. But we are confident that we will achieve some of the ambitions of the people not only in the four countries, but also in the entire Arab homeland.

[Hattab] Your Majesty, as a leader, you have been exerting efforts not only on the local level. Your efforts have exceeded even the pan-Arab framework as a result of your high credibility in the world, which is witnessing a balance between the interests of the two superpowers—a balance that has solved many outstanding regional problems. The entire world is now optimistic about these solutions. Many people believe that these solutions have not reflected on the Middle East, which has complications that affect regional issues. How does Your Majesty view the impact of these solutions on our region, which is experiencing a state of anticipation for such a balance and a start of the stage of a solution to the Palestine question, the Lebanese crisis, or the Iraq-Iran dispute?

[Husayn] Regarding the Iraq-Iran dispute, I believe that the solution will come when Iran realizes that the Arab nation is one nation defending its order, its situation, its people in the entire great homeland, its land, and its rights and when it shows a desire to maintain relations with its neighbors and brothers based on mutual respect and noninterference in domestic affairs by either side. There is also the border issue, which I believe can be solved. Consequently, our interests and those of Iran lie in ending this dispute quickly so that they and we can place their and our energies in reconstruction, the right area, and serve our goals.

Concerning the Lebanese question, nobody, undoubtedly, is happy with what is going on in Lebanon—the pictures and news that keep flowing about the destruction, murder, and harm. This question was discussed at the Arab summit, and some of our brothers were entrusted with dealing with it. We have absolute confidence in our brothers, His Majesty King Fahd, the custodian of the two holy mosques; His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco; and Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid. We are awaiting the outcome, which we hope will be as we desire. But an all this should be put to an end, and it is impossible to remain silent on the situation from now on. We are waiting to hear from them and, God willing, we hope their efforts will succeed as soon as possible.

Concerning the first and most important issue—the Palestine question—I think the world cannot ignore this question and refrain from giving it its due concern. It should be dealt with quickly because the danger here might threaten all that the world has thus far achieved toward solving conflicts and achieving reconciliation, accord, coexistence, understanding, disarmament, and concentration on development. So, thank God, sir, the PLO is performing its duty in the best way possible. It is moving with the full support of our kinfolk in the occupied territories and the gigantic intifadah of this kind Arab people who adhere to their land, right, Arabism, and identity. The Arab nation must give support and backing, as this is the Arab reality. The pictures that the world has been seeing for more than 1 year must have moved many people; consequently, I think the question has to do with a little determination, patience, and persistence, and the situation will certainly change. I, of course, do not forget to focus on the subject of the Arab situation. The more true cooperation, solidarity, and integration we achieve, the stronger we will push the world to give the issue its due concern.

Al-Majali] Taking up Mr Hattab's question on the Palestinian question, Your Majesty has on more than one occasion noted a shift in the American position, or rather that there is a difference between President Bush and his predecessor, Ronald Reagan. In light of the ongoing talks between the PLO and the United States, maybe the citizens do not realize that our ties with the United States are based on a lack of trust given past experience. How much of a shift has there been in the American posture that may reflect positively on the Palestinian cause and find a way around Israel's increasing intransigence, especially of late? I have in mind the elections in particular and some Israeli proposals that constitute attempts to outflank any project for a solution or to evade the international conference—the sole route to a solution of the Palestinian problem?

[Husayn] To begin with, in comparing the present and Reagan's presidency, there is no doubt that he [Reagan] achieved much on the international front and for the United States. However, it was clear to me, particularly in the past few years, that the Middle East issue did not figure prominently on his agenda. He left it to the State Department under George Shultz, who, I think, was influenced by Israel's extreme right wing. Bush differs from Reagan in that the former knows the region and its problems. Then there is the intifadah and even the domestic American arena in terms of a divided American Jewish community. There are a lot of people who will not be able to pursue their support for Israel on the previous scale. Then there are of course the interests of the United States and the USSR, which stand to gain from a resolution of this issue in order for it not to be a bomb whose detonation might destroy whatever the two superpowers have achieved thus far.

All these factors lead me to think that the picture is now different in that it is not static but dynamic. Naturally, we must be alert, as this places Israel and its leadership in a situation whereby it might pose a real threat to its neighbors. We see Israel's attempts to extricate itself from the tight spot in which it finds itself. And there is an

internal conflict in Israel itself as to the approach. On the Arab level, we have to cooperate and coordinate our moves. Here in Jordan, we do all that we can toward that end. Regarding the other topics you raised—the elections, among others—I have said on more than one occasion that the responsibility is now the PLO's and brother president Abu-'Ammar's [Yasir 'Arafat]. The decision belongs to the Palestinian people led by Abu-'Ammar and the PLO—their legitimate and sole representative. It is not for me, just as it is not for any other Arab brother in a position of responsiblity, to impose my thinking on the Palestinian brothers. Our position must be one of support for the PLO in every sense of the word. We must support the march of the Palestinian people in the occupied land and their struggle to regain their rights on their national soil.

On the other hand, I said in the past that, as I see it, the goal ought to be for us to know what the end of the road is. Thereupon, any expression of the Palestinian will concerning self-determination becomes natural. But concerning the elections—who will cast votes, who is to be elected? And what is the purpose of the elections, and what will the process lead to? Therefore, what the Palestinian side is after and what all of us are after, in my opinion, is an integrated picture. The goal must be an Israseli withdrawal from all the Arab territories occupied since 1967. Then there is the Palestinian demand for the establishment of an independent Palestinian state on the Palestinian national soil. Our Palestinian brothers are talking all the time about confederation with Jordan. While abroad, I have repeatedly noted that this can only take place between two independent countries. It is a first step.

Regarding our relations, we are one people and family. This is a question which we can work out among ourselves through the people excercising their rights to fashion their future as they deem fit and at the right time. We are from them and for them. We support and back them with all our resources. It seems that some in Israel are maneuvering to waste time. But I believe that those who are aware of what is on the table will conduct themselves so as to serve this cause.

[Amin] Your Majesty has said that Israel's efforts or the purported Israeli peace plan is a time-wasting exercise rather than a serious effort. The American position calls for developing the current postures so they will eventually converge. However, when it turns out that the Israeli position is not serious and in light of international detente and the thaw between the two superpowers, does Your Majesty see an American-Soviet plan being developed to solve the problem?

[Husayn] I think this is possible, sir. The American-Soviet dialogue on the question and others is ongoing, I think. And then there are the consultations taking place among the five permanent members of the UN Security Council. They did hold consultations on the Iraq-Iran war and other issues including Afghanistan. And you have Soviet-American cooperation on Namibia. I think that if there is to be a solution, it must be the end result of coordination between the two superpowers plus consultations and cooperation among the five permanent members of the Security Council to promote the international conference.

[Al-Majali] Your Majesty, you clearly indicated that the Arab position is what determines the stands of others toward us. The Arab groupings, formost of which is the Arab Cooperation Council, are one of the fruits of Your Majesty's efforts and those of the brother Arab leaders throughout the Arab land. The Arab citizen always looks forward to seeing a form of Arab reconciliation and accord building on a basic point we reached in the Amman summit. How can we reach an institutionalized Arab summitry to be a framework within which the Arabs meet regularly? And when will this Arab reconciliation reflect positively on the economic crises of the Arab countries in particular and help confront other issues and conflicts, formost of which are the Palestine question, the Iraq-Iran war, and the Lebanese question. There is no doubt that Your Majesty exerted all possible efforts with your sweat and even your blood toward the achievement of this goal.

[Husayn, interrupting] And we will continue, God willing, as much as we can.

[Al-Majali] How can we reach this state of Arab reconciliation and solidarity?

[Husayn] Thank God, sir, the Arab family....

[Hattab, interrupting] Signs of an ordinary Arab summit.

[Husayn] We will again contact our brothers to find out when we will meet, although we agreed on the need to meet soon. For instance, there should be a solution to the Lebanese issue within 6 months; or there should be a meeting to discuss the subject once again. We hope that our brothers will succeed in their efforts and that this problem ends—it is high time for this. Concerning the ordinary summit, we are awaiting this summit, God willing. I agree with you that we should insist on the meetings; a great number of my brother Arab leaders are convinced of the need for regular meetings. At the same time, the subject of the Arab League, the oldest regional institution in the world, should be considered. Its failure or success depends on the opportunities we give it. Thank God, we now have the Gulf Cooperation Council and the Arab Maghreb Union. This makes coordination easier, and we, thank God, made good strides toward the desired integration. So, God willing, our affairs will soon be in order; we are pursuing this with all our efforts and capabilities.

[Hattab] I have a question concerning the European stand, if you allow me. The European stand is developing, and this is a reflection of two important steps: The

PLO's acceptance of the terms of peace, and the disengagement of ties between Jordan and the West Bank. The development of the European stand toward better understanding of the Arab cause was declared in more than one meeting, seminar, or conference, the latest of which was the Madrid conference. Your Majesty is close to this stand and has influenced it. What are the main features of this stand in light of Your Majesty's recent visit to Europe, especially your meeting with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher?

[Husayn] I, in fact, was fully satisfied with the results. We discussed bilateral relations, the situation in the region, and the Palestine question in particular. At that time there was a PLO representative in London—brother Bassam Abu-Sharif—I met with him and was satisfied with the meeting and also with his impressions about his meetings with officials there. As you said, the European stand is good and so is the British stand. Britain has a role within the EC and also a role influencing the United States, and I believe this is a positive stand, too. The situation is reassuring, in fact.

[Amin] If you allow me to go back to the first subject. For the citizen to bear a greater responsibility, you posed two very basic issues—the subject of elections, which comes after the disengagement of ties more than 1 year ago, and the project of the National Charter. When will the mechanism for the implementation of the National Charter project begin? Before or after the elections?

[Husayn] Sir, today I signed the decree on holding the elections. I think the charter is on the way, soon....

[Hattab, interrupting] Has a day been fixed for the elections?

[Husayn] Not the day, sir, but a decision on holding the elections was made, very soon, God willing.

[Amin] At the end of this meeting, which we hope will be repeated, we thank his majesty for honoring us by being the guest on the first episode of this program. We are very pleased, and we shed much light on very important local, Arab, and international issues. Thank you sir. We thank our colleague editors in chief of local newspapers.

Hizballah: Response to Military Action 'Severe'
NC0208165089 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1635 GMT 2 Aug 89

[Text] Hizballah has responded to the U.S. threats. The response was voiced by Shaykh 'Abbas al-Musawi who stressed that Hizballah's reaction to any U.S. military action against the party would be very severe. He added that the United States has to think a million times before embarking on any crazy action and that there are no limits to Hizballah's reaction to such actions.

Further Report on Postponement of Executions
NC0108200689 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 1 Aug 89

[Text] The Revolutionary Justice Organization has decided to postpone the ultimatum on the execution of U.S. hostage Joseph Ciccipio for 48 hours. The ultimatum will not be extended any longer, the organization said.

In a statement distributed in Beirut tonight, the organization said the decision was made in response to requests and sincere appeals by friends, especially the moving appeal by the wife of the U.S. hostage. The organization warned those people responsible that any other attempts to secure any further postponement will not work. It urged them to seize this last chance.

The statement was accompanied by a photo of U.S. hostage Edward Tracy.

Group Denies Issuing Statement on Hostage Waite
NC0108220389 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 2150 GMT 1 Aug 89

[Text] The Organization of the Oppressed on Earth delivered a typewritten statement to a foreign news agency in Beirut tonight, denying it had released any statement on Terry Waite. The organization warned against any fictitious statements issued in its name.

Further on Denial
NC0208055089 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0430 GMT 2 Aug 89

[Text] The Organization of the Oppressed on Earth has denied reports that it threatened to kill UK hostage Terry Waite. The group said that the use of its name in connection with the threat to kill Waite is a hostile and reckless act of the intelligence services. Anonymous callers who claimed to be speaking on behalf of the organization had threatened to kill Waite unless Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd was released. In a statement delivered to a local newspaper last night, the group warned meddlers and profiteers against interfering and using the group's name in lies to world public opinion for low purposes. The statement said: We threatened to kill Higgins and carried out our threat. We cannot be harmed by the silly tricks of the bats in Nicosia who only come out at night or their offspring in Beirut who spend their time on the telephone lines on behalf of the international intelligence services.

Religious Source Says Higgins Died 5 Months Ago
PM0208140289 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 2 Aug 89 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Beirut Sources Say Higgins Died 5 Months Ago"]

[Text] Beirut, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—A Beirut religious source who has links with the people holding the Western hostages has stated that he received information 5 months ago about U.S. Colonel William Higgins' death. He added that the information at that time said that Higgins died of ill health and was not executed.

Other sources have refused to confirm Higgins' execution the day before yesterday but did confirm that the U.S. colonel was not alive. The same sources ruled out the possible execution of other hostages. They said: What is required is Israel's embarrassment—not to provide justifications for western sympathy with it. They expressed the view that Higgins' captors have scored a point in their favor.

Pope Agrees To Mediate in Retrieving Higgins' Body
AU0208115089 Paris AFP in English 1105 GMT 2 Aug 89

[Text] Vatican City, Aug 2 (AFP)—Pope John Paul II has agreed to a request from President George Bush to act as a mediator for the return of the corpse of U.S. Lieutenant Colonel William Higgins, a spokesman said here Wednesday.

Mr. Bush had telephoned the pope at his Castelgandolfo summer residence Tuesday afternoon and asked him to mediate after Islamic fundamentalists in Lebanon said they hanged Lt. Col. Higgins on Monday, spokesman Don Giovanni d'Ercole said.

The pope had told Mr. Bush that the "Holy See was available to seek the best solution to the problem." The pope also told the president he was continually working through the Vatican's diplomatic channels and all other means to encourage the peace process in Lebanon and the Middle East.

John Paul II has, observers say, always closely followed developments in Lebanon and has issued numerous appeals for an end to the fighting and peace talks between all sides in the war torn country.

On May 15, he sent a personal letter on Lebanon to about 15 heads of state and government, including Mr. Bush and the leaders of Britain, France, Israel and Syria. Then on May 27 at the Vatican, he had a lengthy private meeting with Mr. Bush during which Lebanon was the focus of conversation.

The Holy See successfully mediated last year with Libya which returned the body of an American pilot shot down in April 1985 during raids over Tripoli and Banghazi.

A papal envoy went to Tehran in 1979 to try to win the release of the American Embassy hostages.

Rumors on Prisoner Exchange Reported

NC0208142589 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic
1357 GMT 2 Aug 89

[Text] We have the following report from our news desk: Marrack Goulding, assistant UN secretary general, arrived in al-Naqurah at 1500 today. He immediately met with General Lars-Eric Wahlgren, commander of the UN Interim Forces in Lebanon.

Goulding stated on arrival that his mission is limited to discussing the issue of Colonel Higgins and to ascertain whether he was executed. Goulding added that he will try to get Higgins' body if he was really executed.

On the other hand, an unidentified plane carrying the U.S. flag and the Red Cross insignia landed at Israel's Ben Gurion Airport after the arrival of Ambassador John Kelly, deputy U.S. secretary of state for Middle East affairs. AFP reported that there are rumors about the possibility of an exchange of prisoners between Israel and the Shiite organizations.

Hizballah Source Ridicules Rabin's Swap Offer

NC0108161889 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1300 GMT 1 Aug 89

[Text] A responsible source in Hizballah has denounced Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's proposal regarding an exchange of prisoners. He described Rabin's offer as miserable and derisory. Rabin aims to cover up the crime of kidnapping Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd and his two aides, and to circumvent international reactions by an offer that appears to be humanitarian but in reality is malicious blackmail, the source declared.

The source added: We cannot see any comparison between Zionist invaders who were detained on our land and a religious scholar kidnapped from his own home in Lebanese territory. According to international norms, territory must not be violated. He said that, by his offer, Rabin wants to separate Shiite resistance men and other mujahidin, whether Lebanese or Palestinian. The source held the United States and Israel responsible for the crime of kidnapping Shaykh 'Ubayd and his two aides, for their continued detention, and for the repercussions of this operation.

Birri, Junblatt Comment on Higgins' Execution

JN0108191689 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1715 GMT 1 Aug 89

[Louis Faris dispatch from Damascus]

[Text] Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri and Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt have held a meeting with Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam to discuss the developments in the Lebanese arena as well as the statement issued by the Arab tripartite committee. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and lawyer Nabih Birri also held a meeting. Birri answered some of our questions on the killing of U.S. Colonel Higgins. Birri said: The Amal Movement has been exerting efforts to release Higgins since he was abducted. The responsibility for the serious development that took place lies with Israel itself. Israel is indirectly responsible for killing Higgins, while the United States is indirectly responsible, because the first abducted Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd and the second did not apply any pressure to release him, although it knew the inevitable reactions.

Regarding the statement issued by the Arab tripartite committee, Birri said: Abducting Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd and the failure of the Arab tripartite committee are like an American movie. Commenting on the killing of Col Higgins, Walid Junblatt told our radio: We condemn this incident, but at the same time, we also denounce that international campaign from the East and the West. We hoped that the East and the West would condemn the destruction of Beirut and the mountain area just as they condemned the killing of Col Higgins. George Hawi also told our radio: We condemn the killing of Higgins. Those who support criminal actions against the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples should be responsible for the killing of Higgins and for causing harm to other hostages.

Damascus radio also held General Michel 'Awn responsible for the failure of the Arab tripartite committee's efforts, and said that the Lebanese people will not allow the partitioning plot to take place. It also threatened that there will be no place for plotters in Lebanon and that Lebanon will not be a place for Israel's conspiracy.

Junblatt Condemns Killing

NC0108195489 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic
to Lebanon 1900 GMT 1 Aug 89

[Text] Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt and Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri today met with Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam. They reviewed the current developments in Lebanon and the statement issued by the foreign ministers of the Arab Tripartite Committee.

Commenting on the killing of U.S. Colonel Higgins, Junblatt said: We denounce this incident, but, at the same time, we disapprove of this worldwide campaign. We would have liked both the East and the West to denounce the destruction of Beirut and the mountain, because this, to us, is similar to the killing of Col Higgins.

Political Commentary Warns of Further Events

NC0208105389 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0545 GMT 2 Aug 89

[Political Commentary: "The Course of Action and the Beginning of Reaction"]

[Excerpts] For the irreligious who have no faith and no ethical or humanitarian principles, the kidnapping of a religious scholar, a guide who has a message to convey and is a defender of the merciful's last religion, is a justifiable and acceptable act, or even necessary to protect the safety of vice and evil which the Zionist gang is spreading east and west on this earth. The detention of a thief, who has no honor, and who covered thousands of miles to deprive the people from their safety, to monitor their movement, and to draw up plans of war against them, is a shameful and hateful act which is unbelievable to the master who believes that the billions living on this unjust planet are servants, an entourage or slaves who only have to obey orders, even if this hurts them or infringes upon their rights. This is what the villains of Tel Aviv and the criminals of Washington want to teach us. They want the monotheist, who owns no transcontinental missile or military aircraft, to tilt his head, crouch in his bed, and count from 1 to 1000, waiting for the arrival of the Major General to take him to the unknown, where slow death and inactivity await him. The victim has to remain silent, so as not to annoy that which sleeps in his white bed in the Black House [the White House], or wake up the dogs sleeping in the white garden surrounding the ellipse's republic. For all this, nobody is allowed to ask where you take our dear folks and scholars and why you kill and attack us. [passage omitted]

The wolf will always kill his victim, whether it screams and calls for help or keeps silent and endures. But if the victim moves to defend itself with a knife or a dagger, it can at least preserve its life and soul and dissuade the monster from attacking it the next time.

When the Zionists kidnapped Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd from his home in Jibshit, the Americans immediately demanded that they be furnished with the result of his interrogation. They insinuated that the price for the shaykh's return will be the foreign hostages. [passage omitted]

It is high time for us to believe in a long-recognized fact—that is, all they want is to kill us.

What can happen after what has already occured? The sound of drums of vanity will echo in America's Pentagon and hurt the ears of Bush and his retinue. [passage omitted]

The sincere Muslims have declared that they will fear no more, because they have nothing to fear. Therefore, Bush's drums of vanity will keep echoing until the sportsmen of the White House are embarassed and thrown to despair. Only then, he [Bush] can return to his tennis match—that is, if the reactions to the kidnapping of His Eminence Shaykh 'Ubayd continue along the course of killing the hostages. And this is what we do not expect, of course, because what is required is to shake the world with words and deeds to secure the release of the kidnapped shaykh.

As for Tel Aviv, the thieves of the enemy cabinet are still bewildered, confused, and surprised at the first reaction. They will further regret things when they see the other reactions, which will shake the soil under their feet. No honorable Muslim will rest in peace or have peace of mind until the struggling shaykh is released. If the Zionists really think that the fate of Shaykh 'Ubayd will intimidate his brothers and his colleagues, they have to know that the time for Muharram [first month of Hegira year] and 'Ashura' [the day of al-Husayn Ibn-'Ali's martyrdom] has approached and that living with the concept of Martyr al-Husayn has forever rid his lovers' hearts of fear. If life means waiting until we are killed, shelled, or humiliated, then death is nobler and more honorable and sacred. This is another concept which we did not only learn from Karbala' [battle in which al-Husayn was martyred], but on which we had been weaned, and which took root in our minds. Thus, the sudden events will occur successively, and the situation will explode at all levels if Shaykh 'Ubayd is not released. Only time will tell the Jews about that to which they had been blind.

Ambassador Praises Egypt's Position on 'Ubayd

NC3107111289 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0945 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Text] Cairo, 31 Jul (MENA)—Lebanese Ambassador in Cairo 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Sulh has commended Egypt's official stand on the abduction by the Israeli Army of Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd, a Hizballah leader, in a southern Lebanese village.

The ambassador said that the statement by Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, which denounced this operation was very positive and reflected Egypt's clear denunciation of such acts.

In an exclusive interview with a MENA correspondent, Al-Sulh said Israel, which is a UN member, is accustomed to violating Lebanon's sovereignty and borders, fully disregarding of the rights of neighborliness. He

added that Israel persists in its occupation of the southern Lebanese territories, in violation of UN resolutions which had repeatedly demanded that Israel withdraw its troops from the Lebanese territories and respect the rights of other states.

Al-Sulh denounced such Israeli acts, and asserted that the kidnapping of Shaykh 'Ubayd will compel the extremest groups in Lebanon to retaliate through counter-kidnappings, which are bound to threaten the lives of foreign residents in Lebanon. He added that such acts will further endanger the lives of foreign hostages held in Lebanon.

Jubayl, Kasrawan Coasts Under Syrian Fire

NC0108153289 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1415 GMT 1 Aug 89

[Text] Since 1640, the Syrian forces have been bombarding residential areas. In particular, the Jubayl coastal area and Kasrawan are being shelled from Sil'ata. The Lebanese Army is now returning fire.

Army, Syrians Violently Clash in Beirut Areas

NC0208094589 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0936 GMT 2 Aug 89

[Text] Violent clashes involving the use of machineguns, rockets, and antitank fire are ranging along the line extending from Galerie Za'tar to al-Tayyunah, between the Lebanese Army and the Syrian occupation positions.

In another development, several mortar shells have landed in the residential areas adjacent to the combat lines.

New Iranian Group Reportedly Enters Country

JN3107162289 Baghdad INA in English 1420 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Text] Beirut, July 31, INA—More than a hundred Iranians, including guards, have recently entered the al-Biqa' area via Damascus Airport Highway, it was reported here today. Lebanese security reports, arriving from the al-Biqa', said the Iranian force had taken positions at Shaykh 'Abdallah Barrack in Ba'labakk and nearby areas. It is to be recalled that more than a thousand Iranian guards are present in Ba'labakk.

Envoy Says 'Modern' Weapons Received From Iraq

NC2907170889 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 29 Jul 89

[Text] Hikmat 'Awwad, Lebanese ambassador to Iraq, has asserted that Lebanon possesses modern and sophisticated weapons including FROG-7 missiles, which it obtained from Iraq.

Ambasador 'Awwad said this in an interview with AKHBAR AL-YAWM news agency. Asked if Iraq had sent FROG-7 missiles to Lebanon, he answered: Yes, Lebanon possesses this missile and other modern and sophisticated weapons which it received as aid from Iraq. Ambassador 'Awwad added: There are sophisticated weapons in Lebanon, which, if revealed, would make everyone forget the FROG issue. Told that the Jordanian prime minister had informed Syrian officials that the Iraqi weapons which had arrived at al-'Aqabah port will not reach Lebanon, he said: Yes, the Jordanian official told Syrian officials this because those weapons were going to be sent to Lebanon via another country. He added: This does not mean that the supply of Iraqi weapons will stop. Ambassador 'Awwad declared: Anyway, Lebanon has enough wapons for at least 2 years and does not currently need new weapons.

News Agency Prosecuted for Statements on Weapons

NC3007124789 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 30 Jul 89

[Text] The public prosecution has referred the AKHBAR AL-YAWM news agency and its officials to a military court for publishing incorrect statements attributed to Hikmat 'Awwad, the Lebanese ambassador to Iraq, on types and quantities of weapons in Lebanon's possession. The agency was also referred to the military court for publishing military secrets, which could have endangered Lebanon's security, sovereignty, and unity and harm its relations with certain countries, according to the referred statement.

Hizballah Radio on Resistance Operations in South

NC0208063689 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 2 Aug 89

[Text] In the struggling south, men of the Islamic and national resistance continued their attacks on the occupation and agent forces. A resistance group yesterday launched an attack with machineguns against an assembly center jointly manned by the Zionist occupation troops and their agents in the hills of the 'Aytarun township. Part of the center was damaged during the attack.

In another development, a land mine exploded while a military jeep belonging to the agent troops was passing along the road to al-Qunaytirah. The jeep was damaged and four of its passengers injured.

According to security reports, the occupation troops brought in military reinforcements to the eastern and central sectors in south Lebanon this morning. Sources in the UN Interim Forces in Lebanon have expressed fears of possible enemy attacks in the wake of intensive military aircraft sorties over eastern Sidon and the Palestinian camps.

Reaction to Abduction, Execution Cited

JN0108160889 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT Aug 89

[Text] Beirut—Lebanese Prime Minister Salim al-Huss has expressed regret over the execution of U.S. Colonel Higgins and denounced the Israeli enemy kidnapping of Shaykh 'Ubayd, the imam of Jibshit mosque.

In a statement today, Al-Huss asked the world to condemn Israel because it is the foremost center of international terrorism in the world and for its unlimited terroristic practices and mass crimes. Al-Huss said that the UN Security Council was unable to condemn Israel or take deterrent measures against it because a superpower used the veto to block any resolutions to this effect. This in effect constituted protection of Israeli terrorism and encouragement for Israel to continue its aggressive policy.

In Kuwait, the newspaper AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM held Israel responsible for killing the U.S. hostage William Higgins. The paper said that Israel's abduction of the Lebanese clergyman means that it is planning a large-scale operation of aggression against Lebanon from the south.

In Moscow, the Soviet Union denounced the execution of the U.S. Colonel William Higgins. In a statement today, the Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman said that the operation of Shaykh 'Ubayd's abduction led to the escalation of acts of violence and terrorism, adding that such acts constitute a flagrant violation of human rights and a threat to the entire international situation.

Further on Reactions

JN0208080289 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 2 Aug 89

[Text] Algiers—Algeria yesterday denounced the Zionist enemy's abduction from Lebanon of Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd and his two companions. An Algerian Foreign Ministry statement issued yesterday said that the abduction of Shaykh 'Ubayd is an act of international terrorism.

Noel Koch, former director of the anti-terror division at the U.S. Department of Defense, has criticized Israel's abduction of Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd last Friday. Koch described the operation as an immense error that led to the loss of American lives.

In New York, Clovis Maqsud, the Arab League's permanent representative at the United Nations, has said that the execution of Colonel Higgins yesterday is a sign of the violence caused by the Zionist entity.

In an interview with the U.S. television network CNN yesterday, Maqsud described the Israeli piracy in which Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd was abducted, as an act of terrorism. He added that the abduction of Shaykh 'Ubayd embodies the Zionist enemy's trend to turn its failure to confront the intifadah [uprising] into new acts of terrorism in southern Lebanon.

Regarding the position that the U.S. Administration should adopt following the execution of Higgins, Maqsud expressed the hope that the U.S. Administration will adopt a moderate stand.

The Netherlands has also denounced the Israeli piratical operation against Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd. It expressed its concern over his abduction.

TISHRIN Cited on Abduction

JN0208062689 Damascus domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 2 Aug 89

[From the press review]

[Text] The newspaper TISHRIN writes about Israeli terrorism, it says: Any observer in the world had fully realized that Israel's abduction of a prominent religious and nationalist figure in southern Lebanon could produce counter stands. Thus, violence breeds violence, and the language of reason and logic retreats in favor of that of terrorism and murder.

TISHRIN adds: When the world governments denounced the crime of Shaykh 'Ubayd's abduction, they were in fact aware that Israel's objective behind this crime was to involve the United States and the West once again in the Lebanese conflict. This is what is happening. The United States has found itself in the midst of a crisis whose main cause is that Israel took terrorism as a profession, an official policy, and a daily action.

Concluding, TISHRIN says: From this premise, defusing the situation, setting matters on the right course, and taking new measures to secure the safety of hostages and their release mainly necessitate vehement condemnation of the Zionist piracy, ending such abnormal and disgraceful actions, and the adoption of a just policy toward the region's issues.

AL-ITTIHAD on M-9 Missile Deal With China

JN0108191089 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 31 Jul 89 p 1

[Text] AL-ITTIHAD has learned from specialized U.S. defense sources that on 18 May, Syria signed an official agreement with China in accordance with which Syria will receive an undefined number of Chinese-made 500 km-range M-9 surface-to-surface ballistic missiles. These sources added that Syria's approach to obtain these missiles came after it was unable to obtain the new 500 km-range SS-23 missiles from the USSR as these missiles are included in the treaty on removing intermediate-range nuclear missiles between Washington and Moscow.

Neutral Western military sources affirm that if this American information on the Syrian-Chinese deal proves to be correct this will constitute an important qualitative step because these missiles will provide Syria with long-range strategic deterrent capabilities and with huge devastating capabilities it did not previously possess.

It is noteworthy that Syria now possesses 36 launching pads for the Soviet 180 km-range SS-21 missiles and 24 launching pads for the 300 km-range SS-Scud missiles.

Al-Asad Pays Tribute to Army on 44th Anniversary
JN0108164489 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 1 Aug 89

[Message by President Hafiz al-Asad to the "Syrian Army and Armed Forces" on the 44th anniversary of the establishment of the Syrian Army and published in the magazines JAYSH AL-SHA'B and AL-JUNDI AL-'ARABI—date not given]

[Excerpts] My brothers and sons in the brave Armed Forces; officers, NCO'S, and soldiers. The 1 August anniversary gives us confidence in our present and future, renewing our faith that the future will be better than the present through our people's determination, struggle, and efforts, given the fact that you are a pioneering section of our people.

We remember this day every year with hope and confidence. Our hopes have never been defeated and our confidence has always been well-placed. Our faith in the future has always prompted us to redouble our efforts and production in all aspects of our activities. One of the most important aspects of our activities is building our strength to defend our nation's causes and rights. The Armed Forces are the most important corner in this strength. [passage omitted]

Brothers and sons of our brave Armed Forces: Our only choice in the current circumstances that are overwhelming our nation is to persevere in building our strength in the cultural, scientific, defensive, technological, and economic domains. The Arab territory is occupied and a continuous aggression is continuing against our nation. Our brothers and kinfolks are daily suffering the tyranny and crimes of the occupiers and their savage practices. The brothers and kinfolk in the Golan Heights, Palestine, and southern Lebanon, are exercising their legitimate right to rebel against the occupation and resist the occupiers. They are looking forward to their nation becoming their supporter and the defender of the eastern and western parts of the homeland because the aggression and threats are overwhelming everyone. Zionism's ambitions are immense and are aimed against the entire Arab nation. There are also powers behind Zionism that support it in its aggressive plans.

It is the fate of our generation to confront this creeping threat and to resist it wherever it appears on Arab soil. We hope that this confrontation and resistance will be collective and pan-Arab so they will bear fruit as soon as possible. Meanwhile, we will not submit or freeze our resources until such time as God will guide the misguided ones. We are at the side of our nation. We support whoever is at the side of our nation and oppose all those who are at the side of the nation's enemies.

When nations are exposed to danger, the only path to pursue is to confront the danger and fend it off. There can be no leniency in punishing those who make of themselves instruments and tools for the homeland's enemies.

Brothers and sons of the Armed Forces. Your history is honorable, replete with sagas of heroism and sacrifices. This has always been the record of our Armed Forces in all its battles with the Zionist enemy since Zionism began its aggression on Arab soil. The nation is proud of your heroism in confronting the Zionist enemy and recalls with joy the battles of glory and honor that you waged in the glorious October war, the Golan war, in Mount Hermon, and in confronting the Israeli invasion of Lebanon. The nation appreciates your help to fraternal Lebanon in all the phases of its crisis because you alone responded, made sacrifices, and offered martyrs for the fraternal country.

Our Armed Forces will remain the leading example in defending the Arab territory and the nation's causes. Their triumphant march will continue. This requires from you further efforts in training and preparedness and more alertness in order to be in the best condition of combat readiness to carry out tasks assigned to you.

In your name I greet our people in the Golan, our brothers, the heroes of the intifadah [uprising] in Arab Palestine, and our heroic people who resist the occupation in southern Lebanon. I salute their martyrs and the martyrs of our Armed Forces, who believed in the value of martyrdom and vied with each other in courting martyrdom. We remember all of them with esteem and we pledge to them that the march of struggle will continue until victory.

Brothers and sons of our Armed Forces. I salute you again. Let us redouble the efforts for progress in our Army, making our target the achievement of victory for our people and nation. Peace be with you.

Afghanistan

Islamabad Radio: Night Curfew Imposed in Kabul

BK0108153389 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 1 Aug 89

[Text] A night curfew has been imposed in Kabul where the mujahidin have been carrying out rocket attacks for the past few weeks. Radio Kabul has confirmed an attack by the mujahidin on the Jalalabad Garrison during which two Kabul regime security posts were destroyed.

Fierce clashes are also taking place in Khowst and Qandahar, according to reports.

Rockets Seized in Kabul Police 'Sweep'

BK0208004089 Hong Kong AFP in English 1747 GMT 1 Aug 89

[Excerpt] Kabul, Aug 1 (AFP)—Security forces arrested 50 people and seized some 100 rockets during a sweep of Kabul and its suburbs Monday night and Tuesday morning as fighting raged elsewhere in Afghanistan, the government said.

Government spokesman Mohammad Nabi Amani said the sweep was made on orders of the Supreme Defence Council and was aimed at uncovering rockets which have killed an average of 30 people per week and left scores wounded in Kabul in the past three weeks. He said the security forces seized arms and ammunition including about 100 rockets, many of Egyptian make, and arrested 50 people for not having proper identity cards. Those who were later able to prove their identities were released, he added without giving figures.

The sweep was the second in Kabul in three days and the third in the past two weeks. Last week, some 300 people were arrested.

Mr Amani said security forces estimated that the seizure of the rockets eliminated 90 percent of the immediate threat of rocket attacks on the city.

By early evening Kabul was free of rocket attacks for the first time in five days, but reliable reports said mujahidin rebel gunners hit the cities of Jalalabad, Guardez and Khowst in the country's east, leaving one Afghan soldier dead in Jalalabad.

The Afghan air force and artillery units responded to the attacks, killing 31 mujahidin and wounding a number of others, Mr Amani said.

BAKHTAR Reports Military Situation

LD0208062889 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0436 GMT 2 Aug 89

[Text] Kabul, August 1, BAKHTAR—Two recoilless cannons, seven communication apparatus, four machineguns, twenty five types of the enemy's assorted weapons have been seized in search operations and ambushes carried out in Chaprahar District, Nangarhar Province today, reports an authoritative source of the armed forces told to a BIA reporter.

The enemy composed of the cutthroat groups, Pak militarists and Saudi Wahhabis too shelled heavy weapons under the cover of army corps No. 11 of Pakistan from the front back lines on Jalalabad, its security posts and the residential areas.

As a result of the exchange of fire one personnel of the armed forces was injured. In retaliation, the units and detachments stationed in Nangarhar Province strongly pounded the concentration spots of the extremists killing 29 enemies and wounding 25.

A number of the Pak militarists and Saudi Wahhabi armed mercenaries have also been reported killed. Similarly, two tanks, six rocket launchers and two caches of the enemy were destroyed.

Another report adds that during the operation carried out by the units and detachments deployed in the provinces of Herat, Konduz and Khowst Grand District 67 foes were killed and 40 injured. A large quantity of the enemy's assorted weapons were also captured.

According to another report, severe clashes have recently occurred in the outlying areas of Alingar district of Laghman Province between extremist groups as a result of which several persons from Golbuddin band and its rival groups were killed.

Desite the war going on, a ten-person armed group headed by Mubarak Shah came over to the side of the government and joined the policy of national reconciliation in Balkh Province today.

Round-up of Military Situation 30 Jul

LD3107090189 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 30 Jul 89

[Text] As a result of search and ambush operations in the area outside the city of Jalalabad, 19 Sakar-20 shells, 47 rockets, 25 artillery shells, 36 mortar shells, 11 rounds of ZK-1 ammunition, and various enemy weapons were seized.

A knowledgeable armed forces source reported to the BAKHTAR military section that the enemy, supported by Pakistan's Army Corps No XI and with Pakistani militarists and Saudi Wahhabis in their ranks, heavily shelled security posts and residential regions in Jalalabad yesterday. As a result, one of the inhabitants was martyred and five others, together with three Armed Forces personnel were wounded. Four houses, three shops, and one private motor vehicle were destroyed.

The source added that units and subunits stationed in Jalalabad heroically and bravely inflicted blows on the concentration points of the enemy, as a result of which 41 enemy soldiers were killed and another 57 persons were injured. A number of Pakistani militarists and Saudi Wahhabis were among those killed. Seven mortars, three recoilless guns, two rocket launchers, three vehicles loaded with weapons and ammunition, and two enemy depots were also destroyed.

The source added that yesterday, the killers and criminals bombarded the area of Khowst Major District with heavy weapons. There was no loss of life. As a result of retaliatory action by the Armed Forces, 17 enemy soldiers were killed and 35 injured.

According to another report, as a result of heavy shellings by the murderous bands in some regions of Herat Province, one inhabitant and one member of the Armed Forces were injured. The units and subunits of the Armed Forces in this province retaliated, and as a result, six enemy soldiers were killed and nine others were wounded. Two enemy machineguns and five mortars were destroyed.

The Armed Forces source added that as a result of retaliatory blows by the units and subunits of the Armed Forces in Qandahar Province which were carried out in response to the shellings by the killers and murderers, seven enemy soldiers were crushed and two mortars, three artilleries and five of their hideouts were destroyed.

According to another report, as a result of shellings by the criminals carried out in the area of Konduz Province, one inhabitant and two Armed Forces personnel were martyred and six other were injured.

The units and subunits of the Armed Forces stationed in this province inflicted blows on the headquarters of the enemies of our people. As a result, a large number of these criminals were either crushed or wounded.

Party Official Emphasizes Regime's Strength

AU3107191189 Vienna Domestic Service in German 1600 GMT 31 Jul 89

[Armin Wolf report on news conference by Najmuddin Akhbar Kawiani, head of the International Relations Department of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, in Vienna on 31 July—recorded with superimposed German translation in quotation marks]

[Text] Najmuddin Kawiani, member of the Politburo of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan and person responsible for international questions of his party, displayed self-assuredness at today's news conference. It was predicted that the Kabul government would collapse within a few days after the Soviet troop withdrawal, but 5 and ½ months have elapsed and the government is still in power. Kawiar

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ani said that the extremists have so far overthrowing the government, and they in the future either, because there is no for Afghanistan. By the term extremists g to the Muslim resistance fighters in wiani said that they have not managed gle city, but have only caused immense civilian population. Since the Soviet rebels have lacked a joint slogan and llen out with one another, he said. Yet, cratic People's Party insists on its policy nciliation and proposes the immediate n armistice and free democratic elec- said, adding that they would recognize ult:

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opposition groups call for the resigna- opposition partiernment, Kawiani said, adding that the aes have completely fallen out with one assination of 32 fighters of the moderate Islamic Afghan Association, by alleged e radical resistance leader Hekmatyar is said. Nevertheless, the Kabul govern- He is with all oppositional groups, Kawiani himself met with a deputy of Hikmatyar Libya in the spring, he noted. Moreover, members of the opposition are laying s and joining the government forces, urope has to become aware that up to ported the most reactionary forces in awiani said, demanding that now the ld support the moderate forces of the is to say those that are prepared to cal solution.

Views Talks With Opposition

AU0108092689 Vienna DER STANDARD in German 1 Aug 89 p 2

["KLI" report: "Kabul Government Members Negotiate With Opposition"]

[Excerpts] Vienna—"Half of the opposition groups have laid down their arms," Najmuddin Kawiani, member of the Politburo and responsible representative of the Supreme Defense Council of the Afghan Government, said at a press conference in Vienna on Monday [31 July]. [passage omitted]

Kawiani said that contacts have been established with all opposition groups, he himself met twice with a representative of the radical rebel leader Gulguddin Hikmatyar. In addition, he had had talks with several opposition politicians, which were mediated by PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat. However, these talks are being officially denied by the opposition, Kawiani pointed out. [passage omitted]

Rebel Interim Govenment To Launch 'News Agency'

BK3007152289 Hong Kong AFP in English 1508 GMT 30 Jul 89

[Text] Islamabad, July 30 (AFP)—The interim government of the Afghan mujahidin has decided to launch its own news agency, resistance sources said Sunday.

The new agency would work under the control of the information ministry of the mujahidin government, they said.

Meanwhile the AFGHAN NEWS AGENCY, one of the guerrillas' major news agencies run by the seven-party Afghan mujahidin alliance, said in a dispatch it will continue to function as before.

The new agency, which will be known as AIG media, will begin operations August 1 and could represent an attempt to give equal treatment to all the mujahidin factions, observers here said. At present there are a number of Afghans who have opened their own news services.

Beside ANA the main rebel agencies include AL-BUNYAN NEWS SERVICE (ANS) run by the Etehad-e Eislami of prime minister Rasul Sayyaf, the AFGHAN ISLAMIC PRESS (AIP), the Afghan Information (AIC) Centre, the Afghan Information and Documentation Centre (AIDC), and the Afghan Media Resource Centre (AMRC), run by U.S.-trained Afghan journalists.

A Pakistani journalist specialising in Afghan affairs is also running his own agency, the AGENCE AFGHAN PRESS (AAP).

Reports said the resistance government was trying to merge all news agencies into one for better coordination, but it was not clear if any agency had agreed to the proposal.

Foreign Minister Wakil Returns From Ethiopia

LD2907091989 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0430 GMT 29 Jul 89

[Text] Kabul, July 28, BAKHTAR: 'Abdul Wakil, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan, returned home today from Addis Ababa. He was there for a working and friendly visit at the invitation of the Ethiopian foreign minister.

Upon his arrival at Kabul International Airport, in an interview with local and foreign journalists on the result of his visit, 'Abdul Wakil said that his meetings with the authorities of the host country were very useful and valuable. At these meetings, the Afghan delegation informed the other side of the military-politico situation of the country, the peaceful proposal of the government of Afghanistan and the policy of national reconciliation. He also appraised them about the dangerous situation created by Pakistan through its direct interference and aggression against the Republic of Afghanistan.

'Abdul Wakil, the Afghan foreign minister, noted that the peaceful foreign policy of Afghanistan was supported by the Ethiopian authorities. They expressed their support to the observance of Geneva accords by all sides concerned and promised their assistance to the political solution of the Afghan issue.

The delegations to the meeting of the Organisation of the African Unity (OAU) regarded the participation of the delegation of the Republic of Afghanistan in the work of the 25th session of OAU and its meetings with the delegations of over 3 [as received] member countries of the OAU as an indication of its interest to the African countries and thus they voiced their solidarity to the government and people of Afghanistan.

The Afghan foreign minister said that during his brief sojourn in New Delhi, he met with Rajiv Gandhi, prime minister, minister of foreign affairs and other Indian authorities and exchanged views on matters of mutual interest.

India

High-Level Talks Continue With Sri Lanka 1 Aug

BK0108130689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 1 Aug 89

[Text] The high-level talks between the Indian and Sri Lankan delegations on the implementation of India-Sri Lanka agreement are continuing in New Delhi for the 4th day today. An official spokesman told newsmen in New Delhi today that both the delegations felt that further discussions are needed. The talks were held

between the external affairs minister, Mr Narasimha Rao, and the two Sri Lankan ministers, Mr Wijeratane and Mr A.C.S. Hameed, this morning. They are also scheduled to have another round of talks later today. The spokesman said the Sri Lankan ministers had called on the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, yesterday and discussed all matters pertaining to the recent developments in India-Sri Lankan relations.

Meanwhile, JVP [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna] extremists are reported to have killed at least 19 people including a popular television personality during the past 24 hours. Military sources in Colombo said today six armed men shot dead 42-year-old radio and television announcer Premakeerthi de Alwis in Colombo.

Talks, Situation Updated

BK0108163789 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1430 GMT 1 Aug 89

[Text] High-level Indian and Sri Lankan delegations continued their discussions till late last night (31st July) in New Delhi to review Indo-Sri Lankan agreement. They discussed whole range of issues connected with agreement. External affairs minister, Narasimha Rao and his Sri Lankan counterpart, Ranjan Wijeratne are likely to have another round of talks today (Aug. 1).

The Sri Lankan delegation comprising Wijeratne and minister for higher education, A.C.S. Hameed called on prime minister, Rajiv Gandhi yesterday (July 31). The meeting lasted one hour and 45 minutes. Discussions covering all aspects of Indo-Sri Lankan relations in context of recent developments, were warm and cordial. Working groups of two countries also met and discussed whole range of issues connected with Indo-Sri Lankan agreement. Later an official spokesman told newsmen that one of main points of discussions was devolution of powers and related question of safety and security of all communities in North Eastern Province of Sri Lanka.

The Tamil National Council, comprising TELO [Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization], EPRLF [Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front] and ENDLF [Eelam National Democratic Liberation Front] has urged India to consider a total pull out of Peace Keeping Force [PKF] only after devolution of powers to Northeast Provincial Council is complete. In a statement issued in Trincomalee, the council said if any decision to pull out PKF before devolution is taken, it will be against interest of Tamils and will compel the council to take some unavoidable steps to protect lives of Tamils.

Meanwhile, the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] has suffered heavy casualties while attempting to step-up violence in North Eastern Province in Sri Lanka. Thirty-three LTTE men were killed and 30 wounded when they launched an attack on a PKF position at Adampan in Mannar District on July 30. A PKF press release issued in Trincomalee today said that over 150 militants attacked a PKF camp using rocket launchers, machine guns and mortars. Groups of them had also occupied buildings on outskirts of Adampan township including a church from where they fired rockets. The attack was repulsed by the PKF. The exchange of fire which started early afternoon continued for about seven hours. Among the LTTE leaders killed in incident were Padhiri Nathan, Jack Sahi and Kanal. Three PKF soldiers were killed and three injured including an officer in action.

In the Jaffna sector, two LTTE militants were killed and four injured in two separate encounters at Kokkuvil and Eranmedu.

The LTTE also launched attacks on the PKF in Trincomalee and Batticaloa sectors. The attacks were repulsed.

Impasse in Talks Reported 2 August

BK0208034489 London BBC World Service in English 0215 GMT 2 Aug 89

[From the "Newsreel" program]

[Text] And it is much the same story [as U.S.-USSR talks in Stockholm on the situation in Afghanistan] in Delhi, where talks between India and Sri Lanka on the withdrawal of the Indian troops from the island also appear deadlocked. There is now a chance the talks will be moved to Colombo. Our Delhi correspondent, Mark Tully, says this will be a blow to the Sri Lankan delegation, who wanted to return home with a timetable for the pullout of the Indian peacekeeping force.

[Begin Mark Tully recording] The Indian officials have said that last night's meeting between the prime minister, Rajiv Gandhi, and the Sri Lankan delegation had gone well and indicated that his initiative might lead to a breakthrough. But the talks today proceeded at a snail's pace once again. One reason for this is that the Sri Lankan delegation refers proposals to their president. This appears to be the reason why India has suggested the talks should move to Colombo. If they do, they may well be downgraded from the ministerial to the official level.

With tension running high in Colombo, the Sri Lankan delegation will be most reluctant to return from Delhi empty-handed. But they are unwilling to make any commitment which would embarrass President Premadasa. One difficulty currently under discussion is India's insistence that they cannot pull out the army until a Tamil security force is trained and in operation in the Northeastern Province in Sri Lanka. India is suggesting that it should do the training. This would be difficult for President Premadasa to accept. It is believed that the Sri Lankan delegation has appealed to India to understand the difficult position in which their President finds himself. If an agreement on the withdrawal of the Indian Army is not reached, the JVP [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna], the nationalist group whose campaign of violence is undermining the authority of the government, will say

that President Premadasa has gained nothing by his decision to accept just a token pullout by the Indian Army on the day he has said for their total withdrawal. But the JVP will also be strengthened if President Premadasa agrees to major concessions to the minority Tamil community to secure the withdrawal. [end recording]

Embassy in Kathmandu Under 'Strict Surveillance'
BK0208075189 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 2 Aug 89

[Text] The Indian Embassy in Kathmandu is being subjected to strict surveillance by Nepalese intelligence agencies. Giving this information in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha today, the external affairs minister, Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao, said Indian visitors to the embassy are being subjected to interrogation by these agencies. He said that the matter has been taken up at the highest level with the Nepalese Government. There has not been any improvement in the situation.

Daily Welcomes Outcome of Gandhi's Pakistan Visit
BK3107135389 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 19 July 89 p 11

[Editorial: "Building Confidence Where None Has Existed"]

[Text] The positive aspect of Mr Rajiv Gandhi's visit to Pakistan is that it dramatically underscores the effort he and Ms Benazir Bhutto have been making to normalise Indo-Pak relations. Mr Gandhi himself gave a perspective to his Pakistan audience when he reminded them that while his attendance at the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] summit in Islamabad last December marked the first visit to Pakistan by an Indian Prime Minister after 10,000 days, the second came in barely 200 days. That this is no one-sided effort is borne by the fact that Ms Bhutto will visit India next month in her capacity as SAARC chairperson, and again later this year as Pakistan Prime Minister. These exchanges of visit will no doubt lend a positive content to the meetings and discussions at various levels and over a multitude of issues that representatives of the two countries have been holding. The Indo-Pakistan Joint Commission is meeting in Islamabad under the two Foreign Ministers. Four sub-commissions dealing with subjects ranging from economic and scientific cooperation to tourism, and cultural and media exchanges had in the meantime submitted their recommendations. Generals of the two countries will meet again in August to discuss military disengagement in Siachen. The going so far has been good, although most people will agree that there is no way to normalise Indo-Pak relations overnight.

While the two Prime Ministers are at work giving shape to what essentially are confidence-building measures, a note of caution needs to be sounded so as not to encourage extravagant hopes. Reports from Pakistan suggest that on the question of nuclear pursuits, Mr Gandhi remains as far from agreement with Ms Bhutto as he was with General Ziaul Haq. Despite Ms Bhutto's denial, India seems convinced that training and succour to terrorists in Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir continue unabated from across the border. A cause for even greater worry is Pakistan President Ghulam Ishaq Khan's remark to Mr Gandhi that Indo-Pak relations could not improve as long as the impression persists that India has hegemonistic designs in the region. The statement featured prominently in Pakistan newspapers has not been denied. If taken at its face value, the conclusion would be inescapable that Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan (a Ziaul Haq man like Foreign Minister Yakub Khan) does not agree with Ms Bhutto's India policy and, where New Delhi is concerned, he is prepared to behave as an Eighth Amendment President (a constitutional measure that established General Ziaul Haq's supremacy over Prime Minister Junejo). Misgivings over this statement would be deep especially as Pakistan is chairman of SAARC for the current year. Mr Gandhi thus may need to be watchful about the power equations in Pakistan where neither the military-bureaucracy axis is dead nor are the wings of its political front, Mr Nawaz Sharif's IJI, [Islami Jamhoori Ittehad] clipped. Building upon the positive elements of Indo-Pak ties is a slow and difficult task. But Mr Gandhi and Ms Bhutto have undertaken a mission worth its while, and despite odds.

Gandhi Sends Message to Africa Fund Meeting
BK0108085989 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 1 Aug 89

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has called for sustaining the struggle against apartheid with renewed vigor. In a message to the African Fund meeting which began in New Delhi this morning, Mr Rajiv Gandhi said the Fund has a significant role to play in the struggle by strengthening the Frontline States and liberation movements. He noted that efforts of the Non-aligned Movement to increase international pressure on South Africa has begun to have an effect on the Pretoria regime. There has been progress on the question of Namibian independence and many SWAPO [Southwest Africa People's Organization] refugees have returned and preparations for elections are underway. Mr Gandhi expressed the hope that South Africa will fulfill its commitments under the UN plan by holding free and fair elections.

The UN secretary general, Mr Perez de Cuellar, and the vice chairman of the Africa Fund, Dr Kenneth Kaunda, also sent their messages to the 4-day meeting. Representatives from about 50 countries are taking part in the meeting which will discuss the programs of the Fund for the next year.

Inaugurating the meeting, the external affairs minister, Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao, reiterated that India would continue to stand with its brethren in Southern Africa as

long as the system of apartheid exists. Describing the Africa Fund as a most laudable example of South-South cooperation, Mr Rao called for more contributions to the Fund.

Daily Views Soviet Proposal on Rupee-Ruble Trade

BK3107100589 Delhi PATRIOT in English 20 Jul 89 p 4

[Editorial: "Rupee-Ruble Trade"]

[Text] The Soviet proposal to give 100 percent bonus to all convertible currency exports and to extend the same to rupee exports amounts to a fifty percent devaluation of the ruble. Two aspects of this proposal need to be separated in order to bring out its implications for India and Indo-Soviet trade, which enjoys a special status. The first is the devaluation of the ruble and its immediate impact. This proposal, which is to come into force on January 1, 1990, would enable the ruble to come closer to its market level and reflect more accurately the economic realities on the ground, instead of what they should be. From India, this may demand a period of major adjustments. India has a large surplus in the merchandise trade with the Soviet Union, a surplus which is balanced through enormous Soviet credits to the country. The major problem in closing the goods trade gap has been the identification of suitable imports from the Soviet Union. In particular, the import of machinery to India which the Soviets would like to step up has not grown on account of the over-valuation of the ruble, among other factors. In other words, the current devaluation should serve the purpose it is intended to, namely, making Soviet imports more competitive. At the same time, it should also ease repayments by India of the large Soviet credits, which are going to be a major factor in the balance of payments in the 1990s. At the same time, Indian exports to Soviet Union, by becoming costlier, are likely to be adversely affected. This should, however, be a long term impact and related more to the second aspect of the proposal—that this is but a first and only a partial step towards a longer term objective of making the ruble a freely convertible currency. This convertibility, which will imply a much further devaluation of the ruble has been made necessary by the attempted structural transformation of the Soviet economy. The rupee-ruble agreement would also have to be modified in response to these changes taking place in the Indian economy. The phased manner in which the changes are envisaged will make the adjustments by both countries easier and more lasting.

Concern Expressed on Situation in Kashmir

BK3107101589 Delhi PATRIOT in English 19 Jul 89 p 4

[Editorial: "Kashmir: New Phase"]

[Text] Peace in the Kashmir valley is not in sight. Since the July 13 shoot-out between an armed band and CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force] jawans [soldiers] in Srinagar, where six persons including two jawans were killed, mob violence has continued. The deceptive quiet for two months and visible normalcy in the State may have been due to the militants' tactical suspension of action during the peak tourist season. The growing lawlessness in a sensitive State like Jammu and Kashmir is without doubt a cause for concern. In less than 18 months, there have been 97 cases of bomb blasts in the State. Since January 1988, at least 52 persons have lost their lives in violent incidents. What adds to the gravity of the situation is the fact that religious bigotry and secessionist activities seem to be moving hand in hand in the State. No less disconcerting is the fact that despite the change of government in Pakistan and Premier Benazir Bhutto's repeated protestations to the contrary, Islamabad is still fomenting trouble in the valley by providing arms, training and logistical support to the anti-national forces. Indubitably, the trouble makers in the State are more organised and brazen in the display of their anti-Indian moves than ever before. The drift needs to be halted and the seriousness of the situation has to be acknowledged by the Centre. At one stage, it was thought that the problem was merely one of law and order created by anti-social elements and other malcontents. Unfortunately, this is not true. Secessionists are working to a plan engineered from across the border. The trouble-makers are also making the CRPF and other para-military forces increasingly targets of their attacks. To that extent, it is a new development. Like in Punjab, in Jammu and Kashmir also the conspiracy to create a communal divide is apparent. The Centre, particularly the Home Ministry, would do well to take stock of the disturbing situation and analyse if there is any pattern in the stepped up violence, witnessed as in Punjab in 1983-84, in Jammu and Kashmir now. The situation should receive urgent Central attention. This is not a plea for Central intervention. What is required at this stage is careful monitoring of the developments with a view to advising the State administration on the remedial steps to be taken.

Iran

Higgins Execution Said 'Natural Retaliation'

LD0208064289 Tehran IRNA in English 0630 GMT 2 Aug 89

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 2, IRNA—An Iranian daily saw the reported execution of an American marine officer by his captors as a natural retaliation to the Israeli abduction of a Lebanese religious leader.

The editorial in Wednesday's JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI also reported to what it termed the failure of the West to distinguish between shadowy undergroup groups and openly active political organizations in Lebanon.

"When Israel and its supporters simply justify everything and ridicule international laws, things are no longer justifiable and anything is probable," said JOMHURI-YE ESLAM in an editorial.

"As long as Israeli actions and those of its supporters are justified, naturally those who encounter them find justifications for their actions."

The Israeli army kidnapping of Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd and two of his relatives Friday has led to a new round of retaliatory acts against the Zionist regime and its supporters the paper believed.

It said underground groups such as the Organization of the Oppressed on Earth which claimed Lt Col William Higgins execution Monday "remain unknown and their identity is clear to no one" despite all the efforts of Western espionage services.

"The major mistake of the U.S. and the Zionist regime is that by kidnapping ('Ubayd) they tried to strike on known Lebanese groups and, the Hizballah in particular, and press them for locating the Western hostages in Lebanon," said the editorial.

However, the execution of Col Higgins, which the paper described as an American spy, proved the miscalculation of Washington and Tel Aviv and showed they failed to distinguish between known militant and underground groups.

The Hizballah, JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI noted, owes its existence to attacks on Zionist forces and open acceptance of responsibility for them.

"The U.S. and the Zionist regime are mistaken in not officially recognizing the Hizballah as the symbol of struggle against the (Zionist) occupiers and in portraying it as a terrorist group. This is what makes them prone to damage."

Majlis Committee Condemns 'Ubayd Abduction

LD0108142489 Tehran IRNA in English 1400 GMT 1 Aug 89

[Text] Tehran, August 1, IRNA—The Foreign Relations Committee of the Islamic Consultative Assembly on Tuesday condemned the kidnapping of Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd, leader of Friday congregational Muslim prayers in Jibshit of Lebanon.

The committee said the abduction of 'Ubayd by the Zionist enemy is a clear proof that efforts for dialogue with the Zionists is doomed to fail. It reminded that Muslim nations should adopt a firm and united stand against the regime occupying Qods [Jerusalem].

The committee of the Majlis deplored the incident saying that if governments in Muslim states shared the same principles and beliefs with their own peoples and if they were concerned about the rights of Muslims and anxious to liberate occupied Qods the Zionist regime would not have ventured to indulge in such acts as it did on Friday.

USSR's Shevardnadze Opens Talks With Velayati

LD0108103389 Tehran IRNA in English 1030 GMT 1 Aug 89

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 1, IRNA—Moscow is ready to play an active role in achieving lasting peace between Iran and Iraq, visiting Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze said.

The issue was raised in the first round of talks with his Iranian conterpart Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati here Tuesday.

Shevardnadze said Moscow was prepared to help in the implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 and in helping the U.N. secretary general in the process.

Velayati welcomed the offer and said the expansion of bilateral ties between Iran and the Soviet Union would benefit international peace.

The Soviet foreign minister who arrived Monday night also stressed on the [as received] continuation of high level visits between the two countries.

Shevardnadze described last month's visit to Moscow by Majlis Speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani and the progress achieved in carrying out joint agreements as very positive.

"We have started a new era in bilateral ties and are prepared to expand relations in all areas with respect to the political and social order chosen independently by the Iranian nation," he said.

Meets Hashemi-Rafsanjani

LD0108163989 Tehran IRNA in English 1614 GMT 1 Aug 89

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 1, IRNA—Tehran-Moscow relations, the Afghan issue and Iran-Iraq peace talks were discussed in a meeting between President-elect Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze here Tuesday.

"The agreements inked by the two countries opened a new chapter in mutual relations," Shevardnadze told Hashemi-Rafsanjani in reference to his visit to Moscow last June.

On Afghanistan, Shevardnadze said the joint scenario sponsored by the U.S., Saudi Arabia and certain other countries in Afghanistan lacked the needed feasibility.

On Iran-Iraq peace he said Moscow supports implementation of the U.N. Resolution 598. "Our position is completely clear in this regard," Shevardnadze stressed.

In reply Hoj. Hashemi-Rafsanjani termed the positive outcome of bilateral relations as "fruitful for the whole region."

Lauding the effective role the Soviet Union played in the peace talks, he said "we deeply regret that a group of Iranian and Iraqi people are held captives, but their release would be impossible before Iraq's withdrawal from the Iranian soil." He added that "We decisively back execution of the U.N. Resolution."

During the meeting Shevardnadze extended a congratulatory message from Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to Hoj. Hashemi-Rafsanjani on the occasion of his election as the next president of the Islamic Republic.

Holds Talks With Musavi

LD0108164789 Tehran IRNA in English 1625 GMT 1 Aug 89

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 1, IRNA—Principal issues between Iran and the Soviet Union have been resolved and mutual relations seem to be in good progress in the wake of the firm will of the two countries' authorities, said Soviet foreign minister Tuesday.

Eduard Shevardnadze in a meeting with Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi also said neighbouring provinces of the two countries can play a significant role in promoting Tehran-Moscow relations.

"Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev personally follows expansion of mutual ties and constantly reviews bilateral relations," Shevardnadze told Musavi.

Expressing satisfaction with the "quick progress" in mutual ties, Premier Musavi described as "important" Shevardnadze's visit to Tehran after the election of Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani as the next president of the Islamic Republic. "We hope this event would be a cornerstone for further understanding between the two neighbouring nations," he said.

This is the first time after several decades that a friendly atmosphere is felt in mutual relations with Moscow, Musavi said, hoping that the two countries, friendship would be consolidated through further expansion of regional and international cooperation.

Departs Tehran With Delegation

LD0108184989 Tehran IRNA in English 1833 GMT 1 Aug 89

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 1, IRNA—Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze and his accompanying delegation left here at the end of a one day official visit and talks with top ranking Iranian officials.

During his stay here, the Soviet foreign minister held talks with President-elect Hojjot ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi, and Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati on the Afghan issue and bilateral ties.

"We had good and satisfactory talks about economic, scientific and transport cooperation, as well as a joint space flight," Shevardnadze told reporters before departure.

He said the two sides also discussed the Afghan issue, which he said "has traditionally been included in the agenda of the two countries' talks," and decided to endeavour for expansion of negotiations between different factors of the Afghan people.

Iranian foreign minister in the meantime described bilateral talks as fruitful. "In fact we reviewed the outcome of the visit of Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani to Moscow last June and his talks with Mr Gorbachev," Velayati said.

He added that the two sides are satisfied with the quick progress of the talks, and decided to follow up the agreements reached by the ranking officials of the two countries.

Four rounds of general and private talks were held between the two foreign ministers during which they exchanged views on the full implementation of the Resolution 598 and ways to bring the peace talks out of its present deadlock, Velayati said.

Shevardnadze, Velayati Comment

LD0108225189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 1 Aug 89

[Text] Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet foreign minister, and the accompanying team left Tehran Tuesday evening [1 August] following a 2-day official visit. He was seen off by Mr Velayati, our country's foreign minister.

In talks with reporters at Tehran airport Mr Shevardnadze referred to his talks with Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president elect of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and said: I delivered the message of congratulations from Mikhail Gorbachev, leader [title as heard] of the USSR. He also added: Following Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani's visit to Moscow sincere talks were initiated between the officials of the two countries. The statement on good-neighborly relations and the long-term economic cooperation between the two countries have opened a new chapter in the history of bilateral relations.

The USSR minister of foreign affairs added: The progress on talks concerning the agreements already reached on cooperation in the fields of economics, commerce, science, transport and a joint space flight was satisfactory. Meanwhile, in the meeting talks were held on the issue of Afghanistan. It must be added that the Afghan problem is usually on the agenda of talks. We exchanged views on that issue.

Our reporter Dehqanpur interviewed Mr Velayati, our country's foreign minister at Mehrabad Airport on the results of the USSR foreign minister's visit which you shall hear:

[Begin recording] [Dehqanpur] Mr Velayati, please tell us what issues were discussed in your talks with Mr Shevardnadze, the USSR foreign minister, and what results were achieved?

[Velayati] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate: His Excellency Eduard Shevardnadze, USSR foreign minister, had a 2-day visit to Tehran at my invitation. In fact, during the visit we assessed the results of the visit by His Excellency Hashemi-Rafsanjani to Moscow and his talks with Gorbachev. Meanwhile, during the past several weeks since those talks numerous teams have been exchanged between the two countries. Considerable parts of the agreements reached in Moscow are being realized faster than we expected. Both sides have expressed their satisfaction over the speed and the progress of the trend of the talks.

It has now been decided that in future the realization of all the Moscow agreements, between the two high ranking officials of Iran and the USSR, be followed up with greater decisiveness and effort.

In my talks with Mr Shevardnadze—one round of general talks and two rounds of private talks—we talked about issues related to Resolution 598 and ways and means of enforcing all parts of that resolution as well as ways of ending the stagnation and deadlock to which the resolution has been subjected. We also talked about relations with Afghanistan and ways and means of achieving a broad-based and honorable solution acceptable to the Muslim people of Afghanistan. We also had useful talks on regional affairs including the Lebanon problem. Exchanges of political views between the two countries on bilateral relations, regional issues and international topics will continue in future.

Each one of these basic topics which were debated in our political talks will be followed in future by expert teams in precise terms.

[Dehqanpur] Thank you. [end recording]

Daily Sees 'Hope' in Shevardnadze Visit

LD0208082289 Tehran IRNA in English 0815 GMT 2 Aug 89

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 2, IRNA—An Iranian daily expressed hope that Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze's visit to Tehran would lead to progress in resolving the Iran-Iraq dispute.

"The indications are that Moscow will surely pave the way towards the establishment of a lasting peace emerging from a settlement of the Iran-Iraq dispute," said the TEHRAN TIMES.

The paper believed this could be a diplomatic victory for the Soviet Union.

"Shevardnadze's Tehran visit can and hopefully will become a new start to what we think should lead to a region free from tensions and conflicts," the editorial added.

The daily said whether this was "high speculation", or would be the "natural outcome" of this important visit may come to be known in a few days.

It did not elaborate.

IRNA Pleads Case of Iranian Hostages

LD0108195689 Tehran IRNA in English 1830 GMT 1 Aug 89

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 1, IRNA—Why nobody is thinking about the Iranian hostages? Nothing has been heard on the fate of four Iranians, including a diplomat and a photographer, taken hostage in Lebanon about seven years ago. Seyyed Mohammad Musavi, Ahmad Motavaseliyan, Kazem Akhavan, and Bahardust [names as received] were kidnapped by the Phalangist forces in Lebanon and according to acquired information they are alive and probably moved to Baghdad, through the Iraqi Ba'ath Party.

Now that following the tragic event in Jibshit, i.e. the abduction of its Friday prayer leader Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd by the Zionist regime, the American Colonel William Higgins has been executed by the Organisation of the Oppressed of the World [as received], the world has once again reflected on the release of all the hostages and some proposals have even been raised by this or that to this end. But here again nothing is said about the innocent Iranian hostages, as though only the Americans and the Israelis knew the bitter taste of hostage-taking and as if there were a difference between human beings with different nationalities and races.

The mass media which always claim to be advocates of human rights never said anything in defending the release of these four hostages but continue to employ all their efforts to secure the release of the Western agents taken hostage in Lebanon.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has repeatedly announced its position regarding hostage-taking and has even said time and again that if steps are taken to secure the release of the Iranian hostages, it would employ all its possibilities for the release of the other hostages. Because, it basically does not regard hostage-taking a humanitarian move.

The Muslim people of Lebanon too undoubtedly hold the same belief, and what we witnessed there can only be interpreted as a reaction against all the despotism, injustice, and tyranny imposed on them. When cries of this

(Lebanese) nation have no auditors in the international organisations and assemblies and when they see an American, an Israeli, and a Lebanese are not held the same and discriminated in an ugly manner, they resort to such acts.

Let's hope that one day these discriminations come to a close and the free nation of Lebanon would be able to decide their own fate and not be subjected to foreign aggressions any more. We have fixed our eyes on that day and hope that the Iranian hostages who are also victims of this prejudice and oppression would be released as soon as possible.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Investiture Set for 3 Aug

LD0208105489 Tehran IRNA in English 1048 GMT 2 Aug 89

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 2, IRNA—The president-elect Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani will be sworn in on Thursday morning in the presence of Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic Republic, said the interior minister Wednesday.

Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi added that the Council of Guardians Wednesday approved the authenticity of the elections for the fifth presidential term.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani's credentials and reports on the elections would be presented to the leader before the new president's investiture, he said.

The Council of Guardians is to report to Ayatollah Khamene'i on the results of its investigations on the constitutional referendum Wednesday and he will sign the amendments to the Constitution as the president and order the Interior Ministry to implement it.

Second Part of Hashemi-Rafsanjani Interview

PM0108095089 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 17 Jul 89 p 16

[Second and last part of exclusive interview with 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, speaker of the Islamic Majlis and acting commander in chief of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Tehran—date not given]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI] One of the major issues that has come up before the supreme council of reconstruction is that of decentralization, combating centralization, so that our towns do not grow any larger, so they do not monopolize investments, thus causing our villages to lose their attraction. What plans do you have for decentralization?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Fortunately, the new 5-year plan stressed decentralization. Giving priority to oppressed areas on an equitable basis; paying attention to villages, especially when many of our resources come from there, in order to avoid migration into the cities; and paying attention to areas which are not active at the moment: All these are necessary. For example, there are parts of our country which are very suitable for work and production, but for certain reasons became idle before the revolution, and for special reasons we have not paid attention to them since the revolution. Dealing with these areas will be part of our program. All in all, I think we should include this issue within the 5-year plan which is governed by announced policies which were also approved by the Imam.

[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI] We have heard that you do not have an election headquarters. Of course, it is obvious why this is so—because propaganda is only needed by those whom the people do not know. But the people do know you and have frequently witnessed your courage, management skills, experience, and bold decisionmaking. Nonetheless we wanted to hear the reasons from your own mouth.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] You have answered your own question. People engage in propaganda to inform the public about something they do not know about, so that they can make decisions. People know me well, perhaps too well. For 10 years now my name has been in the press and the mass media. I even think that if there were propaganda in the normal sense, it would become counter-propaganda. In other words, the people do not expect me to introduce myself through posters, pictures, and so forth. I think this is a futile activity.

There is only one thing, and that is that we have to foster the election atmosphere in order to mobilize people, so there had to be speeches and so forth. This is why I did not stop those friends of the revolution who wished to foster the election atmosphere. In any case, they only have to name one person, and the only person they could name is me.

I stress that there should be no wasted use of propaganda, which would cause extra expense to society: The use of paper and other materials at this time costs money. People should not pay too much attention to such things and they should try to foster the election atmosphere by other means. They should participate in the elections. In any case, those who accept me will vote for me so that I can serve. Those who do not accept us will not have their minds changed by such things.

[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI] Since your candidacy for the presidency was announced the people have become more hopeful and see more hope for the future. This hope can be an important asset and investment for the future president. What plans do you have to exploit this kind of popular support?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] As I said before, our entire wealth is the people. Our greatest supporters are also the people. One of the things that I think should be done in the future is that the government should be freed of many tasks that the people can perform, provided there is no danger of a ammassing wealth and of a rift between

different classes of society. At present we do not have capitalists in the classic meaning of the word, as there used to be before the revolution, or if we do, they are very few. Those who have some sort of ability in terms of finance, intellectual or management skills, and so forth should come forward and become more active. The amount of money in the hands of the people is rather a lot. We have a tremendous amount of cash in this country. When this money is not directed toward production, it will naturally enter the black market and middlemen's hands and its growth goes toward expansion of those same things—black markets and middlemen. Ultimately, it is the people who suffer.

We must create trust among the people, make them recognize that if they use their resources and capabilities in the country no one will hinder them, that there is financial security. Of course, this depends on social justice and laws, so that we can somehow help the poor, not make their conditions even worse, while at the same time improving the conditions of the prosperous. This is one of our plans. If we assume that a large number of people are willing to work for the regime, as they are, they must be helped to work. I say again that if something is to be done in the country, it cannot be done properly without the people's help.

[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI] One official has said that the wealth that is drifting around in the country is itself damaging and disruptive to the economy, even if there is no political motive for it. What plans do you have to give some direction to this wealth and to attract it?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] The first approach is to open up the scope for participants in production. It could be active in industry, agriculture, or trade—which is where it is already most active—as long as it is healthy trade. Perhaps it will be possible to hand over the management of the many factories that now exist to the people. The sale of factories to the people is in the program of the political council which has already been approved. Of course, the workers and the administrators of those factories have priority, as do certain sectors that we need to strengthen. After that come the people who, as we have said, possess wealth.

The opening up of production to the people is one of the normal things that is always talked about, but it is our task to find the jobs and opportunities.

One of the most important things that we have to do is to separate the ruling of capital from active capital. In the past and in the present the situation in many countries has been that owners of capital have always thought of themselves as rulers. They want to rule countries with the special means at their disposal. This is dangerous and under no circumstances must we allow this to happen, because it would entail a return to the situation as it was before. What can happen is that the capital will be allowed to play its own role. In other words, the fair profit made from production can be used for the country, the nation will become active and flourish.

I believe that one of the most important messages of the revolution has been to create some control over capital. This is one element that we must not lose, something to which we adhere. Of course I also think that it is possible for investments and capital to be active and for investors not to expect to control things and to rule.

[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI] The work of the council revising the Constitution is complete. What effect could this revision have on officials—especially executive officials—in terms of leaving their hands free?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] In the executive power, the one thing that can be effective is that very principle. This was always our problem in any election—whether for the Majlis or the presidency: It left the country without a caretaker until ministers could be chosen. Now the president will no longer have a problem. Anyone he chooses will quickly be introduced to the Majlis. Of course, there is a certain limitation insofar as the Majlis must still approve them and they have to attract the Majlis to some degree.

There is almost no problem with regard to decisionmaking. In the past there were problems of decisionmaking between the president and the prime minister, but that will not happen now. If the president is a worthy person—I do not think he would be the most suitable person [as published]—the field is wide open—especially under our present conditions, when the leader himself has been involved in executive affairs and knows the issues well. This could help the country's executive officials a great deal, because the leader knows well where the knots and problems are, and he can unravel those knots. When the ministers see that the president can make quick decisions they become more encouraged and work better. Previously there was some factionalism which I think, with the decision-making power of the president [words illegible].

We have some lack of coordination in the country at the moment. For example, in the field of exports there is a lack of coordination between those who want to export and those who want to set prices. The same applies between those who want to allocate hard currency and those who want to import. The ministers of economy and industry are sometimes poorly coordinated. We suffer greatly from this lack of coordination. In the judicial field, thank God, a correct centralization was established, which can help the regime.

[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI] One of the problems that has existed in various parts of the country, which have eroded the fabric of the regime like termites, is that of factions and groups. How can this be eliminated or at least controlled?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] This issue has now been resolved through the unity that we talked about earlier, though of course not completely. I am in the Majlis and, as you know, the awareness of this issue was stronger in the Majlis than anywhere else, and it is more apparent there. The situation there is now more calm than it has been lately. I myself can be of use here as I maintain good relations with both sides. I have always felt that both sides have goodwill and that there are good people on both sides. The differences of opinion are to some extent constructive and they must remain in order for us to be able to find our way through an exchange of ideas.

In any case, in a regime that has democracy, that has been elected by the votes of the people, that has been entrusted to the individuals chosen by the people, this issue will arise. This factor can make some things rather slow but it is worth having slow work for the sake of democracy and human fulfillment. At present I am not worried about this factionalism being an obstacle.

[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI] Within the Majlis you have been a source of strength. Will there be any changes in the Majlis' management after the elections?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] First of all, the Majlis is now to a large extent dependent on its deputies, not the Majlis speaker. In any case, whoever becomes the speaker cannot belong to a particular group. If he chooses to work with one group, then all the deputies will discover that this is not to our advantage. Therefore the deputies do not expect the speaker to act in favor of any particular group. It will happen naturally that whoever the deputies choose as their speaker will have a coordinating role—especially now that I see the conditions in the Majlis and the reality that exists, it is as I said. Whoever may replace—or definitely will replace me—can play that role. All those gentlemen have years of experience.

[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI] Our relations with the East have recently been strengthened. Is there any special reason for this?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Of course there is a special reason. There cannot fail to be a reason. At the beginning of the revolution, if you recall, our relations with the East were not equal to our relations with the West. Under the past regime, they were tipped heavily toward the West. When we had the revolution we wanted to lean neither toward the East nor toward the West. naturally the Eastern bloc drew a little closer to us. But the Soviet Union did not enjoy a good position in our regard, because of Afghanistan, because of its support for counterrevolutionary groups—especially the leftists in this country—and because of its support for Saddam in the war, which was done for the two reasons mentioned earlier. These problems have now been eliminated, so we are starting again from scratch, whereby we can have cooperation with the Eastern bloc because they do not have the dangerous roots or the colonialist background in our country that other nations have. Of course, there have been some bad issues in with the Russians the past, some of which have yet to be resolved.

It is normal for us to cooperate with our neighbors. it is one of our declared policies to maintain good-neighborly relations and give economic priority to neighbors. In general these relations can exist with any country that wants healthy relations with us. But there are some countries, such as the United States, Israel, and South Africa, which cannot have healthy ties. If they want good ties with Iran it is only because they want to use Iran and because they have unhealthy intentions.

Apart from this there are the U.S. relations with Israel, which is a Hitler in this region. We consider the issue of Israel to be the most important one in the world, and it regards Israel as one of its states. We have serious problems with the United States. But if we do not have serious problems with a country, we can have the same level of ties.

[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI] You recently paid a successful visit to the Soviet Union. You announced that during this trip the groundwork was laid for new relations with the USSR. Could you shed some light on what this "groundwork" means?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] The root of the issue is in two parts. One is that in Iran for the first time there is a regime which can decide on its own what is best for the country, which was not the case in the past.

With Mr Gorbachev's accession to power there is a new situation in the USSR. They have lessened the pressure on Muslims within the country, which in the past was one of the main obstacles for us to greater cooperation. Furthermore, the Soviets have officially announced that they are not looking for a "satellite" country, which means they are not looking for a smaller country than their own with which to maintain "colonial" relations, to regard as a satellite, and to exploit to their own advantage. The threats that Marxist ideology posed to its neighbors in the past, before Gorbachev, have now been eliminated, and this formed a base which we decided to cooperate on an equal footing. This is the meaning of the new groundwork.

If you take a close look at the joint statement issued you can see that this principle is apparent in all the points mentioned. They have points specified that are to their advantage and we have some that are to our advantage, and our cooperation is without expectation. This has became the basis for our work and on the basis of this principle, we have specified several areas of cooperation between the two countries. Of course, these areas of cooperation are unique to our two countries in recent centuries and completely new. So our understanding was also the turning point for the new basis of our relations.

[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI] Natural gas is now being exported to the USSR by pipeline. At the beginning of the revolution gas exprots to the USSR were stopped the Soviets disagreed with the prices offered by Iran. What is the new compromise on the price of gas now?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] First of all, they wanted to gain points from us, to which we did not agree. They said: You made an investment, and there is a pipeline here which we are using on our own territory. We have to make some changes to our pipeline, they said, and we have to make some investments. They made other claims.

We had discussions on this and said that it was incorrect. Mr Gorbachev agreed, and it was decided that the basis of the agreement be in accordance with international prices. It is not difficult to put a price on natural gas in the world. The Soviets themselves are the world's largest gas exporters. Algeria, Libya, and many other countries export gas and there is an international price. The officials responsible know that there is a formula and it was decided that the price by fixed in accordance with that.

[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI] The issue of Salman Rushdie, although an ideological and religious one, has taken on political dimensions. Our point was to protest an insult to everything held holy by Muslims, but it became a means of damaging our relations with the West. What is your anlysis of this?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] I did not consider this an ideological issue at the beginning. From the start it was a political issue for our enemy. They carefully planned this in advance by propaganda; by translating the book "Satanic Verses," they prepared for it in many countries. It was predictable that this clash between us and them would occur. But they thought that because of reconstruction issues in this country, we might compromise on the question. They thought that they could counter this movement with one of their own, destroy the dignity of Islam, because Islam gained a certain dignity in the world through our revolution, and this was unwelcome to the world's aggressors. If they had been successful in their task, they would have destroyed the dignity of Islam and the revolution. Fortunately, the issue was turned around. In other words, instead of destroying Islam's dignity, the issue gave new dignity to the Imam, the revolution, and Islam. It also showed that just when they thought we needed their facilities for reconstruction in the country, that was when we started our attack, in other words, that nothing obstructs the defense of Islam. Events worldwide and the backing that the Islamic world gave the imam were very interesting and exceeded their expectations.

The issue was political from the beginning. It is political even now, because the West does not believe in such things. The West has never adhered to ideals. The things that they say about human rights, democracy, and so forth are all tricks. They issue slogans and under those slogans they follow their own goals. This is a political move. Of course for our part the main objective, the imam's objective, was defense of Islam and the fulfillment of a religious duty. But the imam also considered a political facet of the issue, which is also in our thoughts. While we are carrying out our duty, political moves are also part of our duty. All in all, it was a positive incident. It showed that Islam is strong and that Muslims in certain parts of the world who feel weak have no reason to do so.

[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI] Western countries backed down in the Rushdie affair without us having to give in. What was the reason for that and how do you view the quiet return of the French and German charges d'affaires to Iran?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] It is quite clear that they were defeated. Britain who was the flag-bearer suffered more than everyone else. Britain tried very hard to re-establish its ties with us. Relations were just about to become normal. Of course, we were not against these relations. When this incident occurred, they had thought of many things for themselves, but they were defeated. It is not as if when they make a mistake they would carry that mistake with them for ever and a day. These countries are political in nature. They must make up for their mistakes little by little, which is what they are doing.

[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI] What is the basis and condition for better relations with the West?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] We accept exchanges on an equal foooting with no control or colonialism. The West wholeheartedly must accept the Islamic revolution as a reality and as a strong party.

What does having relations mean? Does this mean political relations—having ambassadors observing international laws, treating each other with fairness with regard to economic issues and not abusing the weapon of economic sanctions? These are plain, normal relations that everyone has with everyone else. Friendship and closeness require more and it will not be easy for us to get close. The issue is not just us.

Let us assume that we are comfortable with one another and they do not expect the unusual from us. We then see that they back Israel in Palestine, they support the Phalange in Lebanon, they support the reactionaries in this region. They bother people. In Africa, they support a regime such as the one in South Africa. They protect unpleasant characters everywhere else. We find the politics of colonialism, control, bullying, satellite-seeking, and so forth disgusting and we cannot be friendly toward people that do these sorts of thing. There are many differences between friendly ties and not talking to each other at all. Well, someone does not have to live with his neighbor every day. They work together. If they are friendly, the behave in a different way. If there are

normal relations, they consider their neighborly ties for mutual benefit. In any case, if they treat us with equality and do not try to impose things on the revolution, we on our part will meet on equal terms.

[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI] This is the second year in a row that the Saudis have prevented Iranian pilgrims from participating in the hajj. What excuse do they have for this?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] We do not think it is the Saudis who are actually making this decision because, in the long run, this is not in their interest. For the moment, anything that happens will be temporary; in the end, they will find out that it is not in their interest to have hostile relations with Iran.

We have not asked for very much. All we say is that the total number of 150,000 pilgrims that we had been sending in the past few years not be reduced. Second, they not try to stop the ceremonies that are held to reject heretics, that they allow us to do that. We gave the guarantee that nothing would damage the interests of the host country.

We started negotiations with mediators from other countries and it seemed things were going well. We do not understand why or how the issue has been left at a standstill. It is very likely that the Americans are making them do these things. The Americans are not allowing this and they are forcing the Saudis to be stubborn without any reason.

As custodian of the two holy mosques, they are making a big mistake by not allowing a large portion of the world's Muslims to go and do their religious duties. This is an unforgiveable sin and it is very bitter for us that our people have not been able to carry out the hajj. They want to go on the Hajj but they cannot do that. The duty is only a religious duty if it does not end as something harmful to Islam. If we were to go to the hajj under strain and if we were not allowed to carry out our religious duty, our people naturally would not like such a hajj. In any case, we think they are making a mistake and that this mistake is being forced on them.

[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI] There recently have been reports of explosions in Mecca. How do you analyze these incident?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] We announced immediately that we condemn anyone responsible, whether the Saudis themselves, the Americans, Israelis, or other enemies. There is a very strong possibility that it was the work of the Saudis themselves. Now, it is not certain what their aim was, especially with regard to the news that came out today which indicated that before the bomb went off on the bridge, they had closed the bridge to cars. This means that they knew of the incident, otherwise why close the bridge? Some people also doubted that the second explosion was caused by a gas leak. It appears there was no conspiracy in the second explosion. Now I do not know how much of this material is true.

We ourselves are sure that our friends would not commit such a huge crime. We have no doubt that this has nothing to do with our friends. Whether it is the Saudis themselves or foreigners, whoever it is, it is from our enemies' camp. Now this enemy could be the Saudi regime itself in order to free itself from the propaganda pressure that was mounted against that regime by the Muslims, who were asking why the Iranians were not allowed into the hajj. They had to have an answer for that. Or else, there are devils in the middle who do not want the Islamic countries in the region to cooperate with one another. They may have done this to muddy the waters—for example, the Israelis, the Americans, or other counterrevolutionaries.

[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI] What progress has there been to improve ties with the countries on the shores of the Persian Gulf?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] There has been no particular improvement that you might think would create a new situation. We have relatively good ties with some of them, with some of them our ties are average and with some of them our relations are not good. Our policy in the past and in the future has been and will be to have good neighborly ties with them, and we shall continue this policy in the future. But it seems that they cannot make decisions alone. They seem to be bound to decisions taken elsewhere, and in any case their decision-making is limited. They cannot freely choose what is in their own interest.

[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI] The Islamic Republic has announced many times that it gives priority to relations with Third World countries, especially Muslim countries. Will this be the policy during your presidential term?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] This principle was stated in the Constitution and is something that has been announced. It remains, and we will be faithful to it.

We give priority to Third World nations. This, because in human and ideological terms, if we can help them and those who need us and our work and affect their lives through our foreign trade, foreign relations, and so forth, it will be a good thing. This is the safest and the best kind of foreign policy to have. However, there are some fields in which we cannot work with them because they lack facilities. There are some facilities unique to other parts of the world. But as far as possible we give the Third World priority.

[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI] As the biggest country with the biggest shoreline on the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman, the Islamic Republic makes little economic use of

these waters. What plans do you have to exploit these waters? This, bearing in mind that the Koreans, who are 5,000 km away, fish there and then sell us their fish.

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] This is one of the important jobs to be done, and one that was started recently. Of course, we have achieved good results and progress. It was announced this year that we produced some 260,000 tons of fish, which is not bad, but our capabilities are higher.

The same applies to the Caspian Sea. We make very little use of the Caspian Sea. This is one of the things that we have agreed upon with the Soviets—that we should cooperate in safeguarding the environment of the Caspian Sea, to protect its fauna, but at the same time to exploit it. The capabilities are quite considerable in the North but are far greater in the South.

We must especially have a presence on the open seas. As a rule, we must provide a large fleet of fishing vessels, either to buy or lease them, in order to expand this industry. There must be some investments in the ships themselves and then more in the training of personnel, some in the building of ports, freezing equipment, frozen tunnels and cold storage facilities to preserve our produce. There also has to be a side industry to make use of the fish waste. All in all, it takes investment. It has been given much thought in the 5-year program. I am interested in this myself and I think that within the next 2 or 3 years we will see an abundance of seafood protein in our country.

[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI] For several years now the waters of the Caspian Sea have been rising. It seemed that the Soviets diverted the river Volga toward these waters. Despite some advantages, this rise in the water level has also caused some damage. Did you discuss this with the Soviets during your recent talks?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] Yes. This subject came up many times. Of course what you said about diverting the river, is not correct. They joined their rivers so that they can use them for shipping to some extent. But it is not as though they can divert the waters from there to here.

In Baku we had a discussion with some university people who came to see us and we talked to their president as well. We also talked to some other people. The Russians themselves are wondering why the water level has gone up. In the past there had been a downward trend which was also dangerous. The water used to go down by 40 or 50 cm causing a lot of damage because the salt level would go up. This would dry up a lot of land and caused a lot of damage to the environment as well. There is less evaporation and many of the sea-dwelling creatures die and so on.

The water level has been on the rise for some time now. The Russians themselves do not know the reason for this. They claim that no more water is coming into the sea and the level of rainfall has not risen either. It was said at one time that in the northeast of the sea, in an area where there was not much water, they had built a dam which dried the area and caused the water to evaporate less. But they said that they had made that area normal again because it had affected their environment. On the other hand it was not as much as we had thought.

Soviet scientists presented a theory suggesting there are a lot of changes happening on the sea bed. There are changes occuring in the ground which may be connected to this. There has been an agreement for our scientists to cooperate with theirs to get to the bottom of this issue. If this is to continue we have to make our shoreline safe.

[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI] It has been decided that the first Iranian oil well be dug with the help of the Soviets in the Caspian within the next few days. Is it not dangerous to have the Russians involved in our oil industry?

[Hashemi-Rafsanjani] We do not have great need for a Soviet presence in our oil industry. Of course they have a good position in the sea at the moment. They have erected rigs and recently they started to make their wells deeper, which we saw during this recent trip. They can help us in that regard. They are using the sea to a good degree, it is we who are unable to do that. This is because we do not have a path to the sea. To create facilities as big as those, there is need for large installations which we have to bring through the sea, to be built on the spot. Therefore cooperation with the Soviet Union can be useful in that regard. They have no objection to our using our side of the sea. One of the best ways to cooperate with them is to use their water channels, to bring in Western technology. Of course, we would like to have industries that would solve our problems on the shores of the sea so we can be independent in the future.

Majlis Deputy Discloses Boycott of IPU Meeting

LD0208082389 Tehran IRNA in English 0800 GMT 2 Aug 89

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 2, IRNA—Iran would not participate in the Inter-Parliamentary Union [IPU] meeting in London this year because of the row over 'The Satanic Verses', a Majlis deputy disclosed.

The decision was taken because of Britain's attitude against Islam and Muslims, said Ahmad 'Azizi in an interview published Wednesday.

'Azizi who heads the Iranian IPU group said "Britain has adopted a negative attitude" on the issue of the blashphemous novel by the Indian-born British citizen Salman Rushdie.

"Britain in the name of freedom of expression undermined the sanctity of Islam," 'Azizi told the English-language TEHRAN TIMES.

The West along with Britain tried its best to damage the Islamic revolution of Iran but in fact it backfired and there was unprecedented unity among the world Muslims, he said.

The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) Monday aired a program likening Rushdie with famous thinkers as Voltaire, Byron, Moliere and Omar Khayyam who have been also branded as blasphemous at one time or another.

'Azizi did not indicate whether the decision to boycott the IPU meeting in London was incited by the program.

On the election of Hojjat-ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani as president he said a new chapter would open for the country's foreign policy.

"The breaking of ice in the Irano-Soviet relations is a positive step which will also have an impact on ties of Iran with the West," said 'Azizi who was once a deputy foreign minister.

He said the West was forced to change its attitude towards Tehran following Iran's renewed relations with the Soviet Union.

Western countries especially the U.S. repeatedly expressed their concern and tried to exert pressure on Kremlin so that Moscow would not improve ties with Tehran, he said.

Papers Say U.S. To Blame for Beijing Deaths

LD0208024989 Tehran IRNA in English 1657 GMT 1 Aug 89

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 1, IRNA—A morning English daily Tuesday blamed the U.S. for being responsible for the June 4 carnage at Beijing's Tiananmen Square.

In an editorial KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL said "The ado over the event created by the West is nothing but the shedding of crocodile tears."

Referring to the "exaggerated" figures of the slaughtering of innocent people by Western media, the daily said they first put the figure at 10,000 dead and more than 100,000 wounded but soon they compromised on a seemingly reasonable figure of 3,000 killed and thousands injured.

"Deng Xiaoping, who was acclaimed by the West as a great hero and champion of the cause of democracy when Beijing opened its doors to Western investors, was declared to be a weak, old statesman lacking the strength to rule China," noted the paper.

"But" it stressed "people in Iran, Nicaragua, Panama, Chile, Burma, Sri Lanka, the Middle East countries, in tens of millions are aware of the truth."

Therefore, the paper said, one is more inclined to believe what the Chinese officials have to say on the subject.

On June 20, Beijing radio charged that reactionaries in the United States, Canada, Hong Kong, and Macao supported and helped plot the student-led democracy movement in China.

Commenting on the role played by Washington in the Tiananmen Square Beijing radio stated that America, under the pretext of spreading democracy, freedom and safeguarding human rights of all the people of the world, interferes in the affairs of other countries.

KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL concluded by saying that "we certainly condemn the slaughtering of innocent people demonstrating for democracy. If such slaughtering did occur in Tiananmen Square on the morning of June 4, as claimed by the Western governments and media, then those responsible for perpetrating it should be condemned by all the freemen of the world. They know it that none other than the U.S. is the real culprit responsible for creating such scenes, anywhere in the world."

Habibi: U.S. Should Pay Damages for Airbus

LD0108174689 Tehran IRNA in English 1645 GMT 1 Aug 89

[Text] Tehran, August 1, IRNA—Head of the Iranian Civil Aviation Organisation Mohammad Nabi Habibi said here Tuesday that the US Government must pay damages for having shot an Iran Airbus and killed 300 passengers in July 1988.

He said, however, that Washington must do so as a 'criminal' wrongdoer opting to forfeit and not posing as a philanthrope with a soft heart.

The Iranian official who was beilng interviewed by IRNA said elsewhere that despite the efforts of the Iranian Government and International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO), the Iraqi Government, too, has not yet returned two Iranian passenger planes which were hijacked to Baghdad during the Iran-Iraq war.

Elsewhere he said that his organisation is to build nine additional airports for nine cities in Iran by 1994 and that also about 2.5 billion rials (dollars 34,246,575) is to be expended for improving the airport in Bakhtaran, enlarging its present runway, and laying an additional runway.

He said the airlines in Iran currently plan to purchase new passenger planes and that by March next year they will have placed orders for some with foreign companies.

Paper Comments on 'U.S. Desire' To Normalize Ties
NC2807110589 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 19 Jul 89 p 2

[Unattributed commentary: "America's Desire Is To Establish Relations With Iran"]

[Text] While strongly criticing the Soviet Union for expanding its relations with Iran, the Americans are themselves entertaining thoughts of establishing relations with Iran, even if these relations are no wider than a hairsbreadth. After coming to power, Bush overtly expressed the U.S. desire to normalize relations with Iran and he seized other opportunities to repeat this wish.

This long-standing wish of the United States to establish relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran was expressed once again recently by the U.S. Administration, but this time in an inplicit and clumsy way.

In its program the night before last, the Voice of America reported on the U.S. Administration's plan to pay compensation to the families of the victims of the Iranian passenger plane. The radio, citing a State Department spokesman, said that the United States is extremely disappointed that Iran has failed to answer the United States and provide information on the relatives of the victims.

Despite the fact that the U.S. Administration had previously announced it would pay the compensation to the families through an international channel, it has now agreed to pay this compensation directly to the victim's relatives through the Iranian Government.

(Of course!) this U.S. official added that proposal by the United States to pay compensation is not aimed at achieving a rapprochement with Iran nor is it in change in its views on international terrorism. U.S. officials believe that on the basis of international criteria, the U.S. offer to pay compensation is a generous (!) gesture.

The Voice of America completed this report in its last night's program by citing from THE WASHIGNTON POST. It said:

"The State Department spokesman added that it is currently not possible to state a more precise figure because the Iranian Government has not yet given the United States the required information on the 250 victims who were Iranian citizens, and the U.S. officials do not know how they can be confident that the compensation will reach the hands of the people concerned."

Referring to the fact that the United States and Iran do not have diplomatic relations, State Department spokesman Richard Boucher stated: "Compensation will be paid to the Iranian citizens only when the Tehran government allows a suitable mediator to undertake the task of dividing this amount among the persons in question."

What is quite obvious from the statement by the State Department spokesman is his government's great desire to establish relations with Iran in any way possible. Of course, it is no secret to observers that the meaning behind the green light that has been given is ultimately nothing but a feeling of great helplessness in the United States and the West before the growing Islamic revolution in the region and the world.

What is important, strategic, and vital for us in this is that we understand this helplessness and the fact that if we allow the least bit of doubt, we will definitely be the biggest losers in history.

This understanding dictates that we avoid being placed within the framework of international transactions that are of an arrogant and nonrevolutionary nature, and that even the important issue of reconstruction, which is the urgent need of the country today, cannot justify this.

We should have strong faith that our system is easily able to confront all its problems, including reconstruction, by continuing along the same path and that fortunately this faith can never be removed from the hearts of the leadership and officials of the system. Everyone has seen this firmness and self-reliance in recent days in the messages and speeches by the leader of the revolution and by other high-ranking officials.

In conclusion, we should refer to one of the inspiring remarks by Imam Khomeyni, the great leader of the revolution, in this regard. He said:

"The U.S. President has said that he will humble Iran. This is just the beginning. In the end, it is Iran that will humble you."

Khamene'i Thanks People for Election Turnout
LD3007182289 Tehran IRNA in English 1820 GMT 30 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 30, IRNA—Leader of the Islamic revolution Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i Sunday thanked the Iranian people for their "massive and unprecedented presence" in Friday's presidential elections and constitutional referendum.

"All those who hold false and unreal analyses regarding Iran should have now understood the realities about the Islamic Republic and the Iranian people's position," Ayatollah Khamene'i reiterated in a message addressed to the nation.

He said the people's presence in the elections and the referendum disappointed the enemies who he said had launched futile efforts and propaganda to dissuade the Iranian people from participating in the elections.

The new constitution which is one of the latest memories of Imam Khomeyni is an alliance between the Iranian nation and a revolution which has been subject to different plots of the enemies for more than 10 years but which succeeded to be gloriously registered in the history, he said.

Chief Justice Congratulates Hashemi-Rafsanjani

LD0108114889 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 1 Aug 89

[Text] Chief Justice Musavi-Ardabili has sent a message of congratulations to Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the nation's president-elect. In the message he wishes Hashemi-Rafsanjani success in carrying out the sensitive mission of presidency. The text of the chief justice's message is as follows:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Dear brother, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani. The extensive presence of people in the presidential election and the choice of your eminence as the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran is happy news for all those who love the islamic revolution and the path of His Holiness Imam Khomeyni—may God be satisfied with his deeds. For years you have struggled for the honor, pride, and success of Islam and the Muslims, and you have rightfully won the vote of confidence of the revolutionary and Muslim strata of Iran in order to occupy the post of the Islamic Republic of Iran's presidency.

I beseech the Almighty grant us the attention of his excellency the remnant of God [the hiddem imam]—may our souls be sacrificed for him—that through the cooperation of all the adherents to the Islamic revolution and those loyal to the Islamic Republic of Iran's leaders, you may be successful in fulfilling this sensitive and important responsibility.

[Signed] 'Abd-al-Karim Musavi-Ardabili

[Dated] 1 August 1989

Memorial Service for Murdered Mujahidin Planned

LD2707133389 Tehran IRNA in English 1145 GMT 27 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 27, IRNA—Jamiyat-e Eslami-e Afghanistan will hold a public service Saturday to commemorate 38 mujahidin commanders recently murdered in Afghanistan's Takhar Province. The service will be held at Imam Hoseyn Mosque.

In a statement the group also said a gathering would be held at Imam Hoseyn square "to condemn the inhuman martyring of the commanders."

The massacre is being blamed on members of Hezb-e Eslami Afghanistan whose leader Golbuddin Hekmatyar is foreign minister in the mujahidin's government in exile.

Diplomat Interviewed on Qasemlu Killing

LD2707191689 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 27 Jul 89

[Interview with Mr Sahrarudi by correspondent Dehqanpur in Vienna; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Dehquapur] Mr Sahrarudi, please tell us about the reasons for the discussions between Kurdish Democratic Party of Iran and Mr Qasemlu, and the Islamic Republic?

[Sahrarudi] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Mr Qasemlu, following his views and opinions in connection with the firmness and the durability of the Islamic republic and know that 10 years of armed struggle have not achieved very much, recognized that the only solution was to negotiate with the Islamic Republic.

They asked for negotiations with the Islamic Republic 5 months ago, through our brother struggler, Mr Talebani, who is one of the leaders of the Iraqi Kurds. The Islamic Republic accepted this, and so far we have had three rounds of discussions. Two rounds took place during the winter of 1988, and this new one took place in 1989, following the demise of his eminence, the imam.

[Dehqanpur] Please tell us about the incident that resulted in Mr Qasemlu's death and that of two others, and also about your injury. How was it? How did happen?

[Sahrarudi] It was the second day of the discussions. On the first day, Mr Qasemlu brought a plan to suggest to the government of the Islamic Republic. He talked about its general points. He himself asked to explain more about it in the second meeting because we knew that we were going to go back to Tehran after Thursday. he asked to allow him to explain things on Thursday and then to ask our questions on Friday. He also asked us to stay on Friday.

The meeting was about to end because he had been invited out to dinner. It was 1910 and we were still in this very small room with closed doors. We were talking; I was sitting in front of the door. Suddenly, someone appeared at the door. The man who appeared pulled out his weapon and raised it. This, of course, lasted no more than a second. I stood up to attack him. He shot the first bullet at me. This hit me in the mouth, as the doctor explained. I then fell on my arm and my arm was hit. I

fell on the ground; my head was between two others, who were beside me. I was bleeding very badly from my neck, mouth, and hand. After a few seconds, I felt that the attackers had left. Of course I had no power to move. Then I stood up with great difficulty. It took around 25 minutes to reach the street. People noticed and the police arrived and took me to the hospital.

[Dehqanpur] In this incident, Mr Sahrarudi, apart from Mr Qasemlu and another member of the Democratic Party, someone else was killed. Who was that person?

[Sahrarudi] Our brother, Dr Fazel Rasul, one of the scholars and most broad minded, committed, and Islamic people, a believer in the Islamic revolution who was teaching at Vienna and Cairo Universities. He was also the editor of AL-HAWAR, an Islamic publication. He was a great Kurdish personality who had a role in the scenes of struggle in Palestine and Egypt, where he was very active. He was one of the best Muslim figures active in cultural activities against the propaganda by the enemies of Islam. He was an independant personality, active in Middle East and Europe. It had been agreed that he would travel to Iran after the discussions were finished. We had asked him to be the negotiator in these meetings and Mr Qasemlu had already accepted him in this capacity.

Here, I think it necessary to thank the Austrian doctors. Also, when I was there I had the utmost cooperation of the Austrian police and judicial authorities in order to track down the perpetrators. Now, we are prepared God willing, to assist the Austrian police in identifying these terrorists. We hope that they will be punished for their actions.

[Dehqanpur] Thank you.

KEYHAN Views Relations With Kuwait

LD2807145989 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 4 Jul 89 p 22

[Editorial by M. Faraz entitled: "Kuwait, One Step Forward"]

[Excerpts] The Kuwaiti minister of state in charge of cabinet affairs said during an interview with that country's news agency that Kuwait wants to see quick implementation of Resolution 598 in regard to the Iran-Iraq war. Rashid al-Rashid, who was previously first deputy foreign minister, is one of the few Kuwaiti cabinet ministers who is not a member of the ruling family. He has been a cabinet member for some time now. He said in the interview: The time has come for the two sides concerned to respect the terms of and to implement Resolution 598.

Previously, the amir of Kuwait had said during the opening of a permanent session of a cooperation committee between Arab and African nations—which ended in Kuwait last week—that other parts of the resolution had to be implemented. This comment was taken as a sign of support for the Iraqi position in the peace process between Iran and Iraq. The statement issued at the end of the Arab-African conference also confirmed this view.

It is thought that after the meeting in (Dar al-Baydha), during which support for Iraq evolved from a political give-and-take, the Iraqi regime now is using all sorts of political moves to get other Arab organizations to support the views expressed in the final communique of the Casablanca Arab summit. The results of the 15th Arab parliamentary meeting that ended in the UAE [United Arab Emirates] last week also point in the same direction. The conference participants shamelessly and irresponsibly supported Iraq for its readiness to sign the peace agreement and to finish the peace talks. They also voiced their support for the resolution passed at the end of the Arab summit. They asked Islamic Republic officials to stop placing obstacles in the path of the peace process!

It is amazing that the UAE, host to the conference and the only member from the Persian Gulf countries that has good relations with Iran, and the other countries which pretend to be friends made no effort to prevent the publication of such a baseless resolution, one which can only add to the tension in the region and prevent the establishment of a lasting peace.

It perhaps can be thought that some participating delegates in such conferences and committees realize their futility and recognize the fact that, in the final analysis, the peace talks cannot be held outside the framework of Resolution 598 and the 1975 Algiers Accord. They perhaps hoped to sell their silence and lack of resistance to such resolutions to the Iraqi regime. The comments made after the meetings by individuals from those countries taking part in such sessions are quite different from the communiques issued at the end of such sessions and confirm this view.

Such assumptions, even if they are true, must not, however, convince Iranian officials to easily accept these countries' excuses. In this connection, it would have been proper for at least our Majlis deputies not to have remained indifferent to what happened last week in our neighboring country of the UAE. Some may say that such rubbish as that published as a so-called communique at the end of an Arab parliamentary meeting in the UAE does not deserve an answer. They may say that replying to things which hold no international value only emphasizes their importance in the eyes of the world, but it seems that ignoring them and remaining silent also are not proper. [passage omitted]

It is necessary to make it understood that irresponsible action in passing a resolution—which in part could be taken as interference in the affairs of another country—

will not remain without a reply. These countries cannot shun responsibility for the unpleasant affects of their illogical actions, even if these actions do not affect the peace process.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has with dignity closed the files of those countries who were previously hostile and considers their current behavior as the major criterion for expansion of bilateral relations. The truth, however, must not be hidden from others. The truth is that after acceptance of Resolution 598, any positive or negative attitude—even small ones—will be monitored with care and a proper reaction will be shown.

The comments of the Kuwaiti minister of state in charge of cabinet affairs is no exception. These comments can be regarded as a positive sign on the part of the Kuwaitis to create better relations with Iran, although it may not be much when compared to the comments made by the emir of Kuwait and the negative communique issued by the Arab-African meeting. It also may not be able to remove the unpleasant affects of these last two statements. Perhaps Kuwait's special geographical position may encourage us to understand the Kuwaitis' slow and careful movement to get closer to and improve their ties with Iran. Despite this, their double-sided actions and policies in this regard should not be hidden to anyone and should not be ignored.

Sri Lanka

2 Tamil Parties Demand Inclusion in Indian Talks

BK0208094989 Hong Kong AFP in English 0859 GMT 2 Aug 89

[Excerpt] Colombo, Aug 2 (AFP)—Two Sri Lankan Tamil political parties have demanded that Tamil representatives be included in talks between Colombo and New Delhi over the Indian troop withdrawal from the island.

Leaders of the Tamil Eelam Liberation Organisation (TELO) and the Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF) said Tamil participation was a must for India and Sri Lanka to know the ground realities better.

India and Sri Lanka are now holding discussions in New Delhi over a time frame for the pullout of the 45,000-strong Indian Peacekeeping Force (IPKF) and some other issues related to a 1987 accord which sought to end Tamil separatism.

"For anything to do with Tamils, the two countries should know what is happening in the (Tamil-populated) northeast," where the Indian troops are deployed, said a TELO MP [member of Parliament], Govindan Karunakaran.

"It is only we, who represent the Tamils, who know the realities on the ground," he added in a telephone interview from eastern Batticaloa town. "So it is only natural that we should be involved in any talks."

Sam Thambimuttu, an EPRLF MP also from Batticaloa, said "Tamil leaders should be included in any negotiations between India and Sri Lanka. If the two governments are deciding our future, shouldn't we be part of the talks?"

Tamil sources here said the chief minister of the Northeastern Province, Annamalai Varadarajaperumal, who is also senior leader of the EPRLF, was in the process of making a formal request to President Ranasinghe Premadasa.

The EPRLF controls the Northeastern provincial government and has seven members in the Sri Lankan Parliament. The TELO has two MPs. Both parties were formerly Tamil separatist groups. [passage omitted]

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